

DAILY

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
 جوردان تايمز: مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية، الراي.

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Volume 18 Number 5644

AMMAN SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1994, MUHARRAM 16, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

King: Jordan anxious for progress in all tracks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein has said that Jordan, although it is preoccupied with its track of negotiations with Israel, remains anxious to see progress on the Syrian and Lebanese peace talks with the Jewish state.

The King also expressed hope that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will visit the autonomous territories of Jericho and Gaza Strip "as soon as possible."

"I hope that he does that," the King said in an interview with Cable News Network (CNN) broadcast Friday evening.

The King, who on Thursday concluded a visit to the U.S. after talks with Presi-

dent Bill Clinton and other administration officials, said he believed that Mr. Clinton was very interested in seeking progress in the Israeli-Jordanian track and also in seeking a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

"As far as we are concerned we are just about to embark on the real work," the King said of the upcoming Israeli-Jordanian negotiations on borders and water rights. "That requires the best of us on both sides to resolve all the problems."

The negotiations are "not tied to anything that happens elsewhere," said the King in reference to the other tracks in the peace talks. "But we are very anxious to see all move and are interested to see a comprehensive peace.

"So now, we are focusing on our problems and we are going to address these problems with all the attention they require. I do not know how long it will take the Syrians to undertake us before we complete our task, but, nonetheless, we are optimistic and hopeful."

"I hope that we will come together at a point in the future," the King said.

The King said a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was not a "taboo subject," but that any such encounter depends on the progress in the negotiations. "I think that a public meeting is very feasible," he said, "and it will not take long before it happens. But we want to see the development of negotiations."

In reply to a question on opposition expressed by Islamic political groups in the country to the peace process, the King said: "I think peace is (inevitably coming). The process is irreversible and regardless of how we view matters in Jordan from different perspectives I think there is a great deal of realism here."

Asked whether he expected a vast majority of Jordanians to support the peace process, the King said: "It all depends on how it works on many points. Obviously it is not peace at any price. It is the kind of peace that future generations can live with, cherish and protect."

The King said the secondary and tertiary Arab trade boycott of Israel were "things

of the past" but that Jordan was suffering an Israeli boycott. It was a reference to Israeli restrictions on Jordanian exports to the Palestinian territories in the occupied territories.

"They are protecting their industries against our ... an agreement has to be negotiated and resolved," the King said.

In reply to a question, the King declined direct comment on how he viewed the ability of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Arafat to rule democratically and with respect for human rights.

"It is something I cannot comment. I hope he is up to it. I have encouraged the Palestinians to stick together, to express themselves

through unity, and I am sure that there are many challenges in the future, mainly among them the need of the Palestinian people for democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights and need for Arafat to be the symbol and the leader, but at the same time for institutions to come up to enhance the credibility that is required ... and for him to go back as soon as possible."

"I really hope that he will live up to the expectations of the Palestinian people, and he has our full support and full backing," the King said.

In another interview with Radio Monte Carlo, King Hussein voiced hope that serious Jordanian-Israeli negotiations could be launched next month to address all

items on the Jordanian-Israeli agenda approved in Washington.

The American role in the Middle East peace process, King Hussein said, is that of a sponsor of the peace process and an important one and had led the Arab-Israeli talks to an advanced stage.

On his talks with U.S. President Clinton and senior U.S. officials, King Hussein said he felt that senior U.S. officials had shown great understanding of Jordan's present and future needs, particularly in the economic field.

The King said he discussed with President Clinton bilateral relations, the peace process and the U.S. role in



(Continued on page 12)

North tightens pressure on Aden

Combined agency dispatches

FOURTEEN civilians were killed and 42 people wounded Friday as southern Yemeni troops bombarded Aden for a ninth day without letup, hospital officials said.

Southern authorities added that 376 civilians had been killed and 861 wounded in the city and governorate of Aden since June 11.

Katynsha rockets slammed into the districts of Kharmakhar close to Aden airport, Maala near the port and into a market at Sheikh Osman in the northern suburbs.

A total of 14 people were killed and 42 wounded, officials at the Al Jumhuriya Hospital said.

Families arrived at the hospital to collect for burial the bodies of those killed Thursday and Friday, and vans carrying wooden coffins left every hour for the city's mosques.

In fierce fighting on the northwest front at Bir Ahmad, 15 kilometers from Aden, four soldiers were wounded, hospital officials added.

Northern troops, who have kept up rocket and artillery fire on the southern stronghold since June 16, advanced overnight into the town of Bir Ahmad after seizing the entrance on

Thursday.

Fighting had died down earlier Friday but southern troops were massing armored cars to launch a counter-offensive against their northern rivals loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

At least 123 civilians have now been killed and about 410 wounded since the north unleashed its assault on the city on June 16, according to a toll by hospital officials.

Thirty people, mostly civilians, were killed and close to 150 wounded on Thursday as rocket and artillery fire rained on the city in the fiercest day of shelling so far.

In Aden residents still have to queue up at 72 wells for water, even though southern authorities have managed to reconnect supplies from the main pumping station at Bir Nasser, close to the northern front, hit by northern fire several days ago.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) officials said water supplies were "vulnerable" in contamination.

Both the ICRC and a spokesman for Medecins Sans Frontieres said there were no signs of any epidemics breaking out in the city.

King, Queen in London after successful U.S. visit

Washington pledges debt relief

Combined agency dispatches

THEIR MAJESTIES King Hussein and Queen Noor have arrived in London after concluding a highly successful visit to the United States where the King held talks with President Bill Clinton on Middle East issues and Jordanian-American relations.

The King and Queen were accompanied to London by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's military secretary, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad.

Summing up the King's talks with the U.S. administration, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said in a statement to Petra that the talks helped improve ties and would lead to a concrete development in bilateral relations in all fields.

The King's visit, Dr. Majali said, laid the foundation for a "new and strong relationship with the United States, especially with regard to the Middle East peace process."

"King Hussein's talks have placed matters in their proper perspective with regard to Jordan's economy and its vision of peace," Dr. Majali said.

Dr. Majali left Washington for Los Angeles to deliver a lecture on the developments in the Middle East region and the outcome of King Hus-

sein's visit to the United States.

Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said the United States had told Jordan it will consider cancelling debts of \$951 million and help ease the country's repayments to the Paris Club of creditor nations.

Dr. Anani, quoted by the Jordan news agency, Petra, said the United States "gave Jordan a firm pledge it would consider cancelling Jordan's debts."

Dr. Anani accompanied King Hussein on the visit to Washington.

The United States also "pledged to help Jordan obtain a reduction in its debts to the creditor nations of the Paris Club," Dr. Anani said.

The Paris Club is due to meet in Paris Monday and Tuesday to consider rescheduling Jordan's debts.

Jordan's external debt is put at \$6.6 billion.

Dr. Anani said a reduction in Jordan's debts was the main issue discussed at the first meeting of the Joint U.S.-Jordanian commission in Washington Wednesday.

U.S. officials said Thursday that the United States was prepared to forgive Jordan's debt if Amman helps advance the peace process with Israel.

President Clinton told reporters before meeting King Hussein on Wednesday that peace in the Middle East,

particularly between Israel and Syria, remained "a very important priority" for his administration.

The State Department said the United States will support efforts to reschedule Jordan's public debt when the Paris Club meets next.

On the question of debt relief, Mr. McCurry said: "We will be as supportive as possible when the Paris Club takes up rescheduling Jordan's public debt in the near future."

Asked if future U.S. economic and military assistance to Jordan depends on a peace agreement with Israel, the spokesman replied: "I don't want to speculate about conditions. I think there are good reasons to promote this type of economic renewal, but it certainly is in the context of what we see as a hopeful environment in the Israeli-Jordanian discussions."

U.S. officials said Thursday the United States is prepared to forgive Jordan's \$700 million military debt if the kingdom helps advance the peace process with Israel.

The officials, who declined to be identified, spoke a day after the U.S. administration said President Clinton was ready to host peace talks here between King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Israelis kill Nablus boy

NABLUS, Occupied West Bank (AP) — Israeli troops quelling a demonstration demanding prisoner releases in this still-occupied city shot and killed a youth Friday, Palestinian reports said.

Clashes with troops erupted around 9 a.m. when scores of youths took to the streets, chanting to demand the release of all Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails.

The town was shut by a commercial strike and the youths ignited tyres at many intersections.

Azzam Manasrah, 18, of Beit Fureik village outside Nablus, was shot in the chest during the downtown clashes. He died soon after arrival at Anglican Hospital, Palestinian reporters said.

The army spokesman's office said it was checking the report.

Clashes were also reported in Hebron between youths throwing stones and the army.

The agreement to release prisoners under certain conditions, contained in the agreement for Palestinian self-rule signed May 4, is proving an explosive issue in the parts of the West Bank still under occupation.

The agreement stipulates that prisoners turned over to the Palestinian National Authority to finish their sentences in the autonomous areas of Gaza or Jericho. The Palestinians said that should only cover rapists, drug dealers and other criminals, but

Israel sees it covering those given life sentences for killing suspected collaborators.

While it is not considered a problem for the prisoners from Gaza, about 280 from the West Bank were sent to Jericho and want to return home. Israel has also said it will not release prisoners with Israeli blood on their hands or those from factor opposed to the peace process.

Palestinians want all prisoners released, regardless of faction. PLO leader Yasser Arafat announced Thursday he would not come to autonomy areas until all prisoners were released.

Meanwhile, Israeli and

(Continued on page 12)

PLO: Israel delaying Arafat

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's visit to the self-rule area of Jericho is being delayed by Israeli violations of an interim peace deal, PLO officials said on Friday.

"It is very difficult for Abu Ammar (Arafat) to come as long as Israel continues to violate the agreement," PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath told Reuters.

A PLO official who refused to be named said he did not expect Mr. Arafat to make the long-awaited trip to Jericho before the first week of July.

And Faisal Al Hussein, the leading local PLO official in the West Bank, put Mr. Arafat's position bluntly to

Israel Radio: "Yasser Arafat cannot come under existing conditions."

Dr. Shaath said Israel was "politically motivated" in throwing up obstacles to the visit. He said he would meet Israeli officials on Monday to try and resolve the problems.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami did not discuss specifics but told Reuters: "Israel has no motives because it was not violating the accord."

Dr. Shaath said the political problems were in addition to snags in obtaining funds from international donors that also delayed Mr. Arafat's return. He said release of Palestinian prisoners and access to Jerusalem were also problems.

Among things provided in the peace deal but not done were the stationing of 400 international observers in Gaza and Jericho, the provision of a "safe passage" through Israel connecting Gaza and Jericho, free movement of PLO officials and stationing of Palestinian police at border crossings, he said.

Another PLO official said Mr. Arafat had told Israel he would not come to Jericho before the Israeli army reduced its presence in the densely-populated areas in the rest of the West Bank, which he said was also called for in the interim peace deal.

Dr. Shaath said in particular Israel's barring him earlier

(Continued on page 12)

Syria rejects Israeli call, scoffs at Rabin

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria on Friday rejected a new Israeli peace proposal linking any withdrawal from the Golan Heights to sealing security arrangements and a peace treaty between the two states.

Government-controlled newspapers also said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's warning that war might break out in the absence of a peace settlement with Syria was designed to pressure Damascus into a compromise.

"Such threats will only push Syria to stick more and more to its rights," said the daily Al Baath, mouthpiece of President Hafez Al Assad's ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party.

"Israeli rulers should realise that threats of aggression will not intimidate Syria or make it give up its drive for a just and comprehensive peace," it said.

Syria has insisted on Israeli commitment to a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights under a land-for-peace deal.

"Whoever wants to say he wants all the Golan Heights has to prepare for war, three, five years or seven years from now," Mr. Rabin said in a speech Thursday.

His foreign minister, Shimon Peres, earlier told Jewish funders that "Israel has proposed several interesting proposals to the Syrians

and if there is a response on its part, there could be a breakthrough in negotiations."

Mr. Peres said the settlement offered "has three parallel chapters, intertwined, about security, peace and withdrawal."

He also urged Syria to agree to direct high-level talks rather than working only through U.S. mediation, including secret contacts "away from the eye of the media."

"Syria refuses Israeli proposals which talk about security arrangements before withdrawal, because if this happens, Israel will get both peace and land at the same time," Al Baath said of Mr. Peres' statement.

Peace talks with Syria have been stalled since February, when a Jewish settler massacred more than 30 Palestinian worshippers in a mosque in Hebron.

Another government daily, Al Thawra, said Israel was trying to block a new Mideast trip by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. It did not explain how.

But the newspaper said such moves were a "flagrant attempt by Israel to clear itself of responsibility for the current deadlock in the peace process."

The Israeli media had reported that Mr. Christopher would return to the Mideast beginning July 10.

Barbed wires and the changed lines in sand

This is the first in a series of reports containing the writer's impressions during a familiarisation trip through southern and northern Jordan organised by the Ministry of Information and the Armed Forces in close proximity to the occupied Jordanian lands that are expected to be negotiated in talks with Israel next month.

By P.V. Vivekanand
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The glint across the desert sun that came from the binoculars of an Israeli soldier and the barbed wire fence that stretched as far as the eye could see came as a chilling reminder that we were on a "ceasefire line" under watchful Israeli eyes.

"That's Jordanian land," said a Jordanian army officer, pointing to the vastness across the fence as we, a group of representatives from the local media, gathered around him. "In some places they have come in as much as eight kilometres into Jordanian territory."

Those were the key words that rang out through a 10-hour trek through the banks of the Dead Sea and down the Ghor Safi-Aqaba Road with forays into the Wadi Araba desert along the Jordanian-Israeli ceasefire

line that has moved frequently into the Kingdom's land since 1948.

The trip, the first of its kind, came as a familiarisation trip to the local media as Jordan prepares for the start of key negotiations with Israel next month on border demarcation and water rights.

"The Jordanians should know what we are going to discuss and the scope of the issues involved," and hence the trip organised by the Ministry of Information and the Armed Forces, explained Munther Haddadin, one of Jordan's key negotiators with Israel.

"There cannot be any dispute over where Jordanian land begins and ends since the terms of reference for the negotiations are the 1928 maps of the British mandate of Palestine," added Brigadier General Mansour Ben Rashid.

Those maps clearly show the Jordanian boundaries before the state of Israel was carved out of Palesti-

nian land in 1948. The only problem had been that Israel never respected those lines in 1948, grabbing Jordanian land then and in the years since then.

In the bilateral talks that were launched with the peace process in Madrid in September 1991, Israel had steadfastly avoided pointed Jordanian efforts to start talks on the border and water issues.

"It is indeed an achievement for Jordan to get Israel to agree to demarcate the border and discuss water rights," said Dr. Haddadin, the Kingdom's top water expert.

"It is an acknowledgement that the present 'borders' are not the right borders and the issue could be discussed," added Dr. Haddadin.

Dr. Haddadin, one of the Jordanian delegates who attended the Jordanian-Israeli meeting under the auspices of the U.S. in Washington early this month that produced the Israeli agreement, has no doubts that Jordan would be able to secure its rights in the negotiations.

No East Bank territory was seized in the 1967 war,

and hence the operating paragraphs of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 do not apply to the occupied East Bank land. However, Israel has agreed to accept the preamble of the resolution as acceptable.

But again, Israel has resisted describing the land as Jordanian. A compromise was "negotiations on border and territorial matters" in the agreement that was reached in Washington.

In essence, an Israeli agreement to delineate the borders means pulling back the wire fence that splits the Jordan Valley and placing them on the delineation lines as given in the 1928 British mandate maps. As the army officer noted, the Israeli encroachment into Jordanian land is at places up to eight kilometres and at others an average of two to three kilometres.

According to Jordanian maps, drawn up on the basis of the borders set by the British mandate of Palestine, Israel now occupies 380 square kilometres of Jordanian land in the south, beginning at the



An Israeli patrol jeep parked near a water well in occupied Jordanian land in Wadi Araba (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

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Home News

New hospital to provide specialised medicare to children

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Royal Medical Services (RMS) will take charge of the specialised children's hospital which will be set up within the grounds of King Hussein Medical Centre probably within two years, according to RMS Director General Youssef Gousus.

Dr. Gousus told the Jordan Times Friday that Jordan lacks a specialised children's hospital and the new facility, which will be built by the Chinese, will be put to service at the national level benefiting children from all governorates.

The minister of planning Thursday signed memoranda with the Chinese ambassador to Jordan, Wang Chi Je, for the construction of the hospital which is expected to cost \$8 million.

The cost will be part of China's loans to the Kingdom as agreed in August 1990, said a ministry of planning official.



China's ambassador to Jordan (left) looks at the agreement for building the hospital. To his left are the planning minister, the health minister and the RMS director-general (Petra photo)

The 130 to 150-bed hospital is to be set up on a 12,000 square metres plot of land near the Queen Alia Heart Institution and will be accessible to all sick children, added Dr. Gousus who also signed the agreement on behalf of the RMS.

"We have prepared a design for the hospital and agreed on details with the Chinese officials who said the construction work would start within the coming few months," Dr. Gousus said.

"Upon the completion of construction, the RMS will take the necessary steps to

secure funds for purchasing medical equipment."

Dr. Gousus said the \$8 million loan was barely enough for the hospital's construction.

"It is true that most hospitals have paediatric wards, but this will be the first specialised hospital for the treatment of children in the country," added the RMS chief.

Upon signing the agreement Thursday, the minister of planning voiced Jordan's appreciation for the Chinese help while the Chinese ambassador expressed the hope that this gesture would further bolster bilateral ties.

Health Minister Aref Bataineh, who signed the accord on behalf of his ministry, said there was urgent need for such a facility to cater to the needs of sick children.

"Although the ministry had harboured the idea for long it refrained from taking any step to carry it out due to the lack of funds," Dr. Bataineh pointed out.

He said that this hospital would be a specialised national project offering services to various types of cases referred to it by other hospitals and health centres in the country.

Campaign begins today to persuade citizens to economise on water

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation today embarks on a week-long campaign to spread awareness among the public about economising water consumption and to explain the water situation in the Kingdom and future plans.

The campaign, in cooperation with the Water Authority and the Jordan Valley Authority, entails programmes on the radio and television and publications in newspapers as well as seminars, discussions and lectures at youth clubs and other organisations.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation said the armed forces, the General Union of Voluntary Societies and a number of government departments were also cooperating in the campaign.

The ministry said that special tours and visits to water projects, waste water treatment plants and irrigation networks would be organised for the media personnel.

On the eve of the campaign, Water and Irrigation Minister Saleh Irshaidat said that the growing need for water and the Kingdom's limited and meagre water resources were posing a major challenge for his ministry, especially during the summer season when demand for water, to be used for agricultural and domestic purposes, peaks.

Since 1988, the ministry has resorted to rationing water supplies and adopting a water distribution programme in order to ensure that supplies reach various areas of Jordan, said the minister.

Acting upon directives from the prime minister, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation aims at attracting more cooperation from all citizens in order to ensure success for the ministry's plans in water affairs, according to Dr. Irshaidat.

The minister, who was addressing a press conference, said that due to the meagre water resources and the growing population, per capita water share has dropped from 3,400 metres per annum to 200 cubic metres in 1993.

He said each citizen actually needs an average of 2,000 cubic metres annually.

According to Engineer Qusai Oteishat, head of the Water Authority, per capita needs mean each person's requirements of water for domestic, agricultural, industrial and all other purposes.

Mr. Oteishat, who is also the ministry's secretary general, said the ministry has no intention of raising the prices of water for drinking purposes but plans to conduct a study and an assessment of the water needs for irrigation purposes.

He noted that the present charge of six fils per cubic

metre was far below the cost of supplying the water including maintenance work and pumping costs.

Referring to the water in the King Talal Dam, Mr. Oteishat said the dam, the largest in Jordan, now holds only 45 million cubic metres out of a capacity of 86 million. But this amount, he pointed out, was sufficient for reasonable distribution for irrigation purposes.

Mr. Oteishat said that the second largest Karameh Dam, which is still under construction near the town of Karameh in the Jordan Valley, would make available 55 million cubic metres once completed.

Mr. Oteishat disclosed that the government, in cooperation with the Japanese government, was currently conducting a study on the establishment of a pilot water desalination project in order to meet the growing water needs of the country.

JEA secures financing for Aqaba expansion project

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has secured \$160 million in foreign loans to finance an expansion project at the Aqaba Thermal Power Station, the JEA said Friday.

Walid Jaoui, deputy director of the JEA, said the foreign component of the project was estimated at \$180 million.

The rest of the financing for the project, estimated to cost around \$300 million, is expected to be in the form of local contribution in infrastructure and logistic support.

The expansion of the plant involves purchasing, installing, testing and operating two 130-megawatt thermal generating units. The facility already has two similar units which went operational in 1987.

Tenders have been issued for the four phases of the expansion project: Purchase of steam turbines, boiler and

fuel tanks and the civil works involved. The closing date for the tenders is July 4, and the JEA is expected to announce the awarding of the contracts before the end of the year "so as to complete tender works and operate these units in the first half of 1997."

"Large groups of international specialised firms which purchased the tenders have shown a great interest in participating in the project," said a JEA statement, adding that such interest is expected to produce "good financial and technical offers."

It meant that the JEA was keeping the options for contractors also to submit financing proposals along with technical offers related to the equipment and installation of the project.

Japanese and European firms as well as an Indian company had topped the list of potential contractors when the project was first floated in the late 80s before it was

suspended. At that time the estimated cost was around \$250 million.

The suspension was prompted by the discovery of commercial gas and the initiation of gas-run generators at Al Rishbeh in the late 1980s. However, increased demands and projections prompted the authority to revive the project.

The external financing for the revived expansion project came from:

- The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, which signed a \$115 million loan agreement with the Ministry of Planning last week.

The JEA will use \$85 million from this loan to partly finance the Aqaba project. The rest of the loan will be used partly to finance the main 400 volts/130 kilovolts substation and the cost of linking the powergrids of Jordan and Egypt within the Aqaba area.

- The Islamic Development Bank, which is lending \$25 million to the project in addition to an available overdraft of \$10 million if needed.

"Islamic Development Bank representatives have completed their work at the Ministry of Planning and the JEA to participating in financing part" of the Aqaba project, the JEA said. It did not say when the loan accord would be signed.

— The Japanese government, which has announced its willingness to provide a loan of \$45 million to the Aqaba project. Details of the Japanese part of the financing, which was announced during the May visit of Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa, have not been finalised.

But the Tokyo government has already made the allocation in the 1994 budget and "is expected to allocate other amounts in the 1995 budget," the JEA statement said.

"Accordingly, the required finance for the total cost of the project is completely covered," the statement added.

Hammad: No political detainees in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad has denied reports alleging that Jordanian jails were full of political detainees, stressing that all prisoners are held for criminal activities.

"Not a single person is held in Jordan for political reasons and there is no truth in the claims that prisons are crowded with political detainees," he told a meeting in his office Thursday.

According to Mr. Hammad, a person is jailed only upon orders from the public prosecutor and for a good reason.

"The general security situation in Jordan is alright and public freedoms are guaranteed in the climate of democracy," added Mr. Hammad.

Referring to the groups held in January and February of this year for their suspected involvement in explosions at movie theatres in Amman and Zarqa, the minister said that they were held within the normal jurisdiction of the Jordanian laws which will also determine the kind of court that would try them.

"Relatives of these groups, as well as representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), have already visited the detainees involved in the blasts and saw for themselves that they have not been exposed to any kind of torture," said the minister.

Relatives of the detainees, he added, can visit them on Fridays for three hours.

The minister said that these groups, having 25 people, will be tried before the courts in the coming month. According to the minister, the 25 include two members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan.

The minister also denied that the government was holding passports of Jordanian citizens, saying that exception was made by those belonging to groups that had committed crimes.

"The security services do not have a single passport on the grounds of a person's political affiliation," stressed Mr. Hammad.

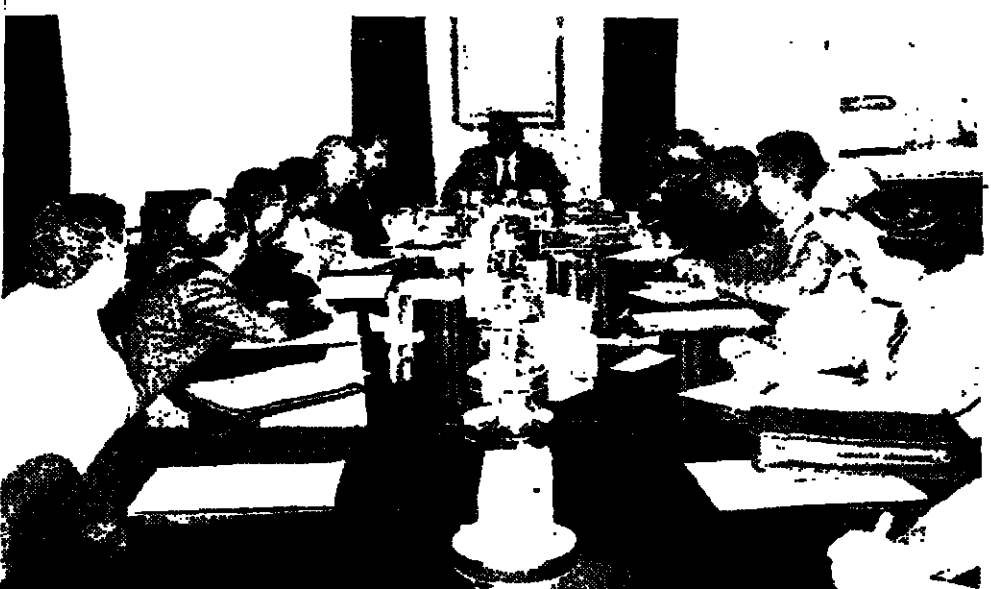
Referring to political parties, the minister disclosed that some of them have been in contact with other parties abroad, in violation of the political parties law, stressing that the ministry was taking the appropriate measures to prevent that from happening.

Referring to travel across the bridges, to and from the West Bank, Mr. Hammad said that Jordan announced measures last month to further facilitate travel, noting that in May, 19,994 people crossed into Jordan from the occupied West Bank and 26,008 returned in the same month.

He said that since the beginning of June, 16,761 people came from the West Bank and 28,733 returned.

The minister noted that despite the self-rule agreement for the Jericho and Gaza areas, the Israelis have introduced no change to their normal measures for travel and the Palestinians continue to face long hours of delay at the crossing points on the other side.

Before the press conference, Mr. Hammad held a meeting with governors to review the administrative divisions in the Kingdom in the



Interior Minister Salameh Hammad presiding over a meeting of administrative governors (Petra photo)

wake of a government decision to create four new governorates in Aqaba, Madaba, Ajloun and Jerash.

The minister outlined the Ministry of Interior's measures, starting August 1, regarding the implementation of changes to cater to the needs of the new situation.

The Interior Ministry, said Mr. Hammad, is determined to help governors deal with all issues in their respective areas, with the help of sufficient, qualified cadres, in line with the government's decentralisation policies.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

THIRD YOUTH THEATRE FESTIVAL

★ Drama in Arabic entitled "Pages of Blood" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Painting exhibition by Iraqi painters "The Pioneers Group" at Ain Art Gallery — Wadi Saqra (Tel. 644451)
- ★ Painting exhibition by Naila Deeb at the Goethe-Institut.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Form and Colour in the Arab Art Exhibition" by 16 artists from Jordan and Iraq and the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Sophia Ziadeh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works by several Arab artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Exhibition by artist Mohammad Fadi at the Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Child Needs Expo at the International Motor Exhibition, Airport Highway (Tel. 653836).
- ★ Exhibition by plastic artist Shawkat Al Alousi at the Alfa Art Gallery (Tel. 672872).
- ★ Exhibition on the development of "Le Louvre" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Painting exhibition by artist George Bahjouri at Al Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 728677).
- ★ Painting exhibition by Jordanian artist Abdul Ra'uf Sham'oun at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jahal Laweidbeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Photography exhibit entitled "Faces of Jordan" at the American Center.
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists at Ab'and Art Gallery in Mecca Street.

NOVEL RECITAL

★ Novel recital by novelist Raja' Abu Ghazaleh at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:30 p.m. (Tel. 695291).

Iraqi art doyens in Amman for 'last exhibition together'

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "The Pioneers Group", whose members come from Iraq's oldest generations of contemporary artists, opened their art exhibition Wednesday at the Ain Art Gallery in Amman in what will probably be their last exhibition together, according to gallery owner Dr. Shamil Kubba.

The group's 19 members, who first began jointly exhibiting their work in Baghdad in 1950, "are among the most prominent artists of Iraq's older generations, and they have all had a part in forming the contemporary art schools there," Dr. Kubba told the Jordan Times.

Before coming to Amman, the Pioneers' current exhibition had been on display at the Saddam Hussein Centre for the Arts in Baghdad for the first half of this month. Although the Baghdad exhibit had included the work of all group members, Dr. Kubba said, due to difficulties in obtaining permits from the Iraqi government to let their works travel outside the country and the rigours of Jordanian customs procedures and duties, only around 10 of the Pioneers were finally able to bring their work to Amman.

However, there still remains much to interest art lovers. Perhaps the most intriguing paintings are those of Hassan Abed Alwan, which appear to be a playful takeoff in the atmosphere of the tales of A Thousand and One Nights.

In Mr. Alwan's surreal sce-

narios, bedouin cavaliers, sheikhs, and women in nightgowns fly magically over a landscape of moonlit minarets and balconies, waving scimitars and comically balancing on their heads such strange objects as wine jugs, fish, cats, songbirds and chickens.

A large portion of the works on display are artist and calligrapher Mohammad Ali Shakir's paintings of female subjects.

Mr. Shakir's women — peasants, streetwomen, housewives and young girls, fleshily painted with generous curves, in various stages of dressing (undressing), convey a sense of feminine fertility and ripeness which strikes the viewer.

The women also convey in their poses a sense of awareness and control of their femininity which is rare in Arab paintings.

Also prominently displayed are the works of Suzanne Al Shaykhal, an expatriate French artist living in Iraq, whose work on display focuses on Middle Eastern themes and motifs.

Although her watercolours of traditional landscapes and cityscapes are pretty enough, the most interesting of her paintings are three which focus on the same theme. In each of them, a solitary and forlorn figure stands in the foreground against a haze of vaguely painted, huddled female figures in the background.

The exhibition is scheduled to continue at the Ain Art Gallery for approximately one month.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Stop reckless drivers!

SUMMER HAS barely begun and the number of road accidents is already going up. The culprits are mainly young drivers allowed by their parents to sit behind the steering wheel before they are ready. It takes more than a driving licence to be able to drive a vehicle safely in our congested streets. It needs prudence and sane judgement, something that a driver's test may not show. Normally all those who seek driving permits put on their best behaviour when they undergo the necessary tests but shed off these attributes the moment they are alone in their own cars.

As a result, many people are losing their lives, especially in the summer holidays when young students take on the thoroughfares of the country as if with a vengeance. The fact that many of those young people's parents are influential makes it very difficult for the authorities to take affirmative action against violators or would-be violators of traffic rules. Many people drive through red traffic lights and stop signs with impunity day on and day out. Traffic policemen are normally nowhere in sight to stop these grave traffic contraventions.

This suggests that much more needs to be done to stop the fatal accidents on our roads. It is not enough to recall the rise of traffic accidents once a year when the world commemorates safe driving. We need an effective and endless campaign to root out the growing problem from our streets based on expeditious punishment of all those who are found guilty irrespective of their social, political or economic status. The mass media can also contribute to eliminating traffic accidents by highlighting them on daily basis until the message gets across to all those who could be directly or indirectly responsible for them.

In order would be the granting of a temporary driving licence on a probationary basis. If the record of any given driver is so alarming the first year or so, his or her permit must be withdrawn or even cancelled. Whatever it is, we need to get more serious in combatting reckless driving habits that gamble with the lives of innocent people. Parental control and guidance are also called for.

In these times when freedom has become associated with slackening parental control over their children, parents must be made legally responsible for the crimes that their children commit when they drive the family car. As long as fathers and mothers of young drivers are absolved of civil and criminal responsibility for the actions of their offspring, they would continue to take lightly their duty to control the behaviours of their sons and daughters.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Sunday commented on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's scheduled tour of the Middle East region by expressing belief that it constitutes a fresh indication that the United States is keen on pursuing the peace process. But, shutting between Arab capitals to convey the views of leaders is not enough to achieve the aspired peace, especially on the Syrian-Israeli track, which has not yet seen by progress, the paper said. To achieve peace and ensure the return of the Golan Heights to Syrian sovereignty, said the paper, requires serious efforts on the part of the United States administration which should help end Israel's intransigence and persuade its leaders to withdraw Israeli forces from the occupied plateau. Without real pressure on the Israelis, said the paper, there can be no chance for Mr. Christopher to achieve any result from his fresh mission, added the daily.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour discussed the "lottery" announced by the United States embassy in Amman inviting people to submit applications for immigrant visas, and said this could be a trap. Mohammad Daoud said that the lottery programme could be designed to attract certain types of youth or skilled people to become incorporated in the American nation, benefiting the United States and depriving their original countries of their skill. The writer said that the Americans are trying to exploit the uneasy situation in many of the Third World countries, luring them to American, with keen interest in attracting talented youths from the Arab World whose own countries have spent a fortune on their training. With the departure of skilled and talented youth from the Third World countries, the developing world would be deprived of the means for development and progress, added the daily. The writer cautioned Jordanians to abort "Washington's plots" and urged the Arab regimes to offer talented and skilled people all facilities for creative work necessary for the Arab World's progress and development.

Jordanian Perspective

A new era in Jordan-U.S. relations

By Dr. Musa Keilani

BY ALL counts, the summit between His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. President Bill Clinton on Wednesday marked a new era in relations between Jordan and the United States. It was indeed the third such summit since Mr. Clinton took office, but the atmosphere that prevailed during the two earlier encounters was not exactly very clear since the priorities of the sides were far apart. Now, it seems, the Clinton administration has sent a strong signal that it has come to accept the reality of the consistency of the Jordanian position and the principled position of the Kingdom over the decades. That is indeed the most important step forward in a direction that would bring back and intensify warmth and cordiality in Amman-Washington relations.

Jordan was never a spoiler in the quest for peace in the Middle East. If anything, one of the main catalysts in the peace process that was launched in Madrid in 1991 was King Hussein's persistent calls for a negotiated just, comprehensive and just settlement to the root conflict plaguing the lives of the people of the region.

President Clinton's offer to play a personal role to efforts to advance Jordanian-Israeli negotiations was of course a clear understanding of Jordan's position and commitment to reaching a negotiated settlement based in fairness and justice for all.

The Kingdom's refocused turn in 1989 towards democracy — a basic element of American approach — was not an accident either. It reflected our leadership's commitment to expanding people's participation in decision-making as soon as the political constraints imposed by external factors beyond the control of Jordan were eased.

The King's meeting with U.S. congressmen on Wednesday produced a reaffirmation of the American lawmakers' support for the democratisation under way in Jordan. Hopefully, they also appreciate that Jordan is pedalling a sole boat in the turbulent waters of the Middle East and any overt move could jeopardise its course.

Definitely, any just settlement in the region has to have as one of its pillars an improvement in the lives of people. The man in the street should feel the fruits of peace reflecting on his life in terms of better living conditions and tension-free political participation if peace has to be consolidated. That objective is not possible against the present backdrop of the yawning economic disparities among the different countries.

On our part in Jordan, the government, the Armed Forces and the officialdom as well as the private sector are gearing up to interact with the requirements of peace. Optimism is high among Jordanians that they are on the threshold of an era that would herald economic prosperity and development for all.

Obviously the subject was also one of the key themes in the King's talks with President Clinton and other American officials, including Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and Defence Secretary William Perry as well as U.S. lawmakers.

It is naive to expect Jordan to play a full and effective part in rebuilding a stable Middle East when it is burdened with one of the highest per capita foreign debts in the world. The need to service those debts from the limited financial resources of Jordan has been a key constraint in the Kingdom's options.

The least that we would expect from the U.S. to help the Kingdom in this context is a write-off of Jordan's debts, estimated at JD 950 million. Compared with the (acknowledged) annual U.S. aid of nearly \$6 billion to Israel (and Egypt) for the ostensible purpose of maintaining peace in the region, the Jordanian debts should not be a problem for Washington. But the peril that we face at this point in time is perhaps an American insistence on linking a debt write-off with the actual signing of a peace agreement between Jordan and Israel.

Hopefully, among things that President Clinton had in mind included Jordan's debt burden when he said that "we

will do whatever we can" to keep the momentum in peace process going.

The most tangible result of the Washington summit is an end to the damaging sea-based inspection of Jordan-bound cargo. The process, which taxed Jordan more than \$1.2 billion since it started in August 1990, will now be replaced with a land-based verifications regime at a much, much lower cost while respect is assured for Jordan's political sovereignty and territorial integrity. The nuances that held up an agreement were successfully sorted out during the Jordanian delegation's talks in Washington.

Jordanian security needs were also addressed during the Washington discussions. Maintaining internal security and being able to defend itself while not posing any military threat to its neighbours are two essential elements in the commitment of any country to regional peace. Jordan is no different. If anything, an additional element to the Jordanian equation is the fact that a properly equipped Jordanian security force will be an asset to international peacekeeping operations. We Jordanians have proved our willingness to contribute to international peacekeeping in former Yugoslavia, Cambodia and several other trouble spots. In essence, help given to Jordan's security forces represents help to keeping peace and stability elsewhere as and when needed.

We are indeed aware that there is a handful of American agencies and institutions that still harbour ill-founded suspicions about Jordan. But then it is a fact of life that such agencies and institutions have their own parameters and considerations while judging any country, and there is very little that we in Jordan or the administration itself could do to dispel them. Quite simply Jordan cannot sacrifice its principles for the sake of pleasing them. We hope that those agencies and institutions take in the consistency of Jordan's position throughout the decades of wars and upheavals in the Middle East as the starting point for a possible reassessment of the Kingdom.



No easy way out of Nigerian crisis

By James Jukwey
Reuter

LAGOS — Prospects of a quick solution to a political crisis in Nigeria are dim after millionaire businessman Moshood Abiola defied the military authorities and declared himself president, analysts said.

Mr. Abiola, widely acknowledged as the winner of last year's annulled presidential election, is still in hiding from police since making the announcement at a secretly staged ceremony in Lagos on the 12 anniversary of the June 12 election.

No foreign power has so far recognised his presidency, but political analysts say he must be party to any deal that aims to solve the crisis and bring lasting peace to Nigeria.

"There can't be a solution without involving Abiola in any dialogue," said one former state governor. "After all he won an election which the military annulled," he added.

Many, however, doubt that one year after the cancelled vote Mr. Abiola can expect to become president without a hard fight.

"Indeed, so much water has passed under the bridge that chief Moshood Abiola would find it extremely difficult to rule this country without further negotiations," wrote political commentator Ude Eze in the daily Times newspaper.

The present administration has made it clear that the vote, cancelled by former military president Ibrahim Babangida, cannot be restored without causing more chaos in Nigeria.

General Sani Abacha, who seized power in November in the aftermath of chaos precipitated by the annulment, believes instead that his planned constitutional conference which started Monday remains the best way of restoring democracy.

Gen. Abacha has been meeting prominent Nigerians from across the country in Abuja, the inland capital, to promote dialogue as the only way out of the crisis but has left the opposition in no doubt that he would not step down for Mr. Abiola as they are demanding.

While talking to a cross-section of people the government has so far rebuffed the opposition National Democratic Coalition (NADECO), which backs Mr. Abiola's quest for the

presidency. NADECO says it is willing to talk with the government but the administration says the group is not registered.

The stand-off is compounded by the detention of dozens of opposition members over their call for Gen. Abacha to quit for Mr. Abiola.

Mr. Abiola's proclamation followed weeks of tension over whether or not he would make good his avowed intention to declare his own government and risk a confrontation with the military.

When it finally came, there were no journalists present to record what is the biggest challenge to the federal authority since 1966 when Emeka Ojukwu declared the secession of Biafra in southeastern Nigeria

which led to a civil war in which more than one million people died.

A week of protests arranged by pro-democracy groups to support him failed to make much impact and only minor protests were staged in his home region, the Yorubawa speaking southwest.

Commentators said Nigerians face such hard economic times that people want to be left alone to get on with their lives.

But they said despite the calm prevailing in most parts of Nigeria, the southwest was still volatile and that there could be riots there if Mr. Abiola was arrested.

The wealthy businessman is due to make his first public appearance since his June 11 proclamation some time this week, probably at

a public rally, his aides said. Police have vowed they will arrest him if they see him.

Gen. Abacha is meanwhile pressing ahead with his pet constitutional conference despite scepticism from opposition groups that the conference is designed to prolong military rule.

While the government appears to be controlling the conference, with the nomination of nearly a third of the participants and the appointment of its presiding officers, more people now seem to be speaking up in favour of the conference.

"We must accept the reality of the constitutional conference and channel all national grievances to it, including June 12, for deliberations and firm resolution," said former senator Ebenezer Ikoyina.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

King's U.S. visit serves to explain Jordanian position, demands

mands that are legitimate and that are required to ensure stability and security in the Middle East.

Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the United States now holds all the cards not only with regard to the Middle East peace process, but also towards various world issues. It is not in the interest of Jordan to be in confrontation with the United States, he said, saying that the strained relations with Washington over the past four years have helped to tighten the siege on the country which started in the wake of the Gulf crisis. The writer said that redressing the strained relations and creating a new concept in

bilateral ties are bound to further boost the chances for stability and would be most beneficial for the Kingdom.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that Israel's continued drive to raid Lebanon and to pursue repression in the West Bank does not reflect good intentions but rather evil tendencies which, he said, reflect the Jewish state's true nature and its determination to remain adamant in its aggressive stand. The writer said that the Israelis are also taking a very stubborn stand with regard to the repatriation of the released detainees to their homeland and continue to imprison Hamas

members, including their leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin in further show of disregard to the Arab demands.

Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the Israeli authorities are making it difficult for the Palestinian police force to control self-rule areas by keeping the released detainees away from their hometowns. The writer said the Israelis are complicating matters further by blocking the Palestine National Authority's drive to reconstruct institutions required to ensure stability and security in these areas.

Ahmad Al Mislak, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that Israel's jails continue to take in more Palestinian de-

tainees and continue to serve as home to all those who refuse to sign statements abandoning their resistance campaign against occupation. For this and other reasons, at least 6,000 detainees in Israeli jails have started an open hunger strike and for this reason their kinsmen in the occupied territories are determined to pursue the struggle until their lands have become free once again, he said.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on a statement issued by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) about poverty in Jordan, saying that the problem according to the

statement has reached dangerous proportions. Figures released in that statement showed that 21.3 per cent of people in Jordan live in poverty, which is nearly one quarter of the population, said Shafiq Obaidat. The writer said that the poverty problem cannot be solved through providing JD 50 a month for a poor family but rather through closer cooperation on the part of the private and public institutions towards creating job opportunities.

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that doctors estimate the number of people suffering from diabetes in Jordan at 200,000. The writer said that caring for the diabetics can be much cheaper through collective action on the part of the concerned parties and organisations simply because many of the diabetics are poor and cannot afford the cost of treatment on their own.

Leftists bo

ATHENS (R) — A brawl broke out at a meeting of the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Tuesday. The fight was between a group of leftists and a group of rightists. The leftists were shouting slogans and the rightists were responding with violence. The police had to intervene to break up the fight.

S. Africa re

UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said on Tuesday that the United Nations would continue to support the process of democratic reform in South Africa. He said that the United Nations would continue to work with the South African government to ensure that the transition to democracy is peaceful and that the rights of all South Africans are protected.

N. Zealand

WELLINGTON — A 22-year-old man was shot dead by a police officer on Tuesday. The man was walking on a street in Auckland when he was shot. The police officer said that the man was carrying a gun and was a threat to the public. The man's name was not released.

Mandela nam

PRETORIA (R) — The head of the military in the Communist Party of South Africa, General Moshook, said on Tuesday that the party would continue to support the process of democratic reform in South Africa. He said that the party would continue to work with the South African government to ensure that the transition to democracy is peaceful and that the rights of all South Africans are protected.

UNITA welc

LUSAKA (AFP) — UNITA welcomed the agreement between the government and the rebel group on Tuesday. The agreement was signed in Lisbon and it provided for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of foreign troops from Angola. UNITA said that it was pleased with the agreement and that it would continue to work for the peace in Angola.

Hong Kong

SINGAPORE (A) — A group of about 100 people gathered in Singapore on Tuesday to protest against the government's policy on the environment. The protesters said that the government was not doing enough to protect the environment and that they were demanding more action.

China's minorities fight poverty trap

By Giles Hewitt
Agence France Presse

KAILI, China — South-west China's ethnic minorities adorn the cover of many a regional tourist brochure here, but the colourful images belie the harsh reality of a life spent on the margins of mainstream society.

While the equality of all nationalities was enshrined in Communist China's founding constitution, the vast majority of the more than 30 minority groups located in Guizhou, Yunnan and Guangxi provinces still eke out a subsistence lifestyle in some of the country's poorest and most isolated regions.

Around 35 per cent of Guizhou's 33 million population are registered ethnic minorities, most of them living in the province's three specially designated autonomous prefectures of Qianxinan, Qianxinan and Qianxinan.

In their home village some 32 kilometres from Qianxinan's urban centre Kaili, Pan Jiahe, 26, and his 60-year-old father, both from the Miao nationality, view their minority lifestyles from different perspectives.

For Pan's father, economic reform has meant a significant shift in living standards, allowing his family to sell surplus produce on the open market and move beyond mere subsistence farming.

But Pan, who works as a teacher in Kaili and like many of his generation is impatient with the pace of change in the countryside, feels that not enough is being done to improve the lot of the minorities.

"Things are certainly better than they were 20 years ago, but it is meaningless to talk about equality if the opportunities don't exist to realise its benefits," he said.

Despite government plans to establish a mandatory nine-year education nationwide by the turn of the century, even six years of education is still a rarity among the minorities in

Guizhou, where the school drop-out rate — especially for girls — is extremely high.

According to Yang Guizhou, deputy director of the Guizhou Education Commission, the government has made minority education a priority but faces a formidable task.

"Some of these people are still facing clothing and food problems, so schooling obviously takes a back seat, which is why we have more than 200,000 dropouts from primary and middle schools every year," Mr. Yang said.

All of Guizhou's 17 native minorities, which include the Miao, Dong, Tu, Yi, Gebo and Yao, speak mutually unintelligible dialects and as many as two million are unable to speak standard Mandarin Chinese, while many more are illiterate.

For a few selected villages, tourism has provided a partial exit from the poverty circle, as they receive monthly stipends from the local tourism bureau to put on impromptu "traditional" festivals for foreign visitors — complete with singers and dancers clad in embroidered costumes and silver jewelry.

The vast majority, however, rely on preferential government policies which include basic food subsidies and projects, involving U.N. funding, to develop agriculture and promote cottage industries like handicrafts.

Minorities were also given special dispensations when the one-child family was introduced in 1981, and are currently allowed to have two, or even three children.

For those who manage to leave their villages, life in the towns and cities dominated by China's Han majority has its own drawbacks.

"I can make a better living here, but certain people definitely look down on me," said Zhong Wanshu, a Dong who works in a Kaili electronics factory and whose Han in-laws have only recently accepted his marriage to their daughter three years ago.

Touring the world on four wheels

Retired, determined, and not short of time, the Schmidts board their Land Cruiser on a drive to the Guinness records. Rana Hussein reports



ON THE ROAD: The Schmidts in their trusty vehicle (file photo)

through the desert, mountains or rivers, their four wheeler was also their restaurant, bedroom and bathroom.

They travelled 33,680 kilometres, 8610 hours of driving, consumed 81,996 litres of gasoline and 37 tyres and fitted 97 punctures. They also exhausted 16 car batteries and changed oil 49 times.

"We enjoy being in the nature and coming in con-

tact with new cultures," said Mr. Schmid, a retired financial manager.

Before entering a new country, the team said they would study its geography and habits, culture, traditions and laws. But to their great relief, things were better than expected.

"Although we had a specific image about each country we wanted to visit, to our surprise things were

completely different from what is really said," Mr. Schmid said.

"People were very nice, helpful and peaceful and offered us help and shelter when we needed it," he said.

The beautiful landscapes and nature pushed the couple to keep looking for something new every day.

Mrs. Schmid described a wonderful experience at dawn in Australia: "We

were sleeping in the car as usual, and when I woke up early in the morning I saw a small kangaroo looking at me and when he saw me looking at him he ran away."

Their global trip was graphed, photographed and preserved by Mrs. Schmid who had already shipped nearly 150 kilograms of souvenirs and more than 12,000 slides back home.

So far, the couple admitted they have been "lucky" for not having faced any serious troubles, except for one "frightening" incident when their Swiss colleague was shot five times by someone wielding an AK47 during a trip through Guatemala.

"We still don't know why he was attacked. The same group of people followed us but we somehow managed to escape," he said.

The couple, who arrived in Jordan from Saudi Arabia on June 13, left for Syria Wednesday in bid to break the current Guinness world record of 83 countries, which is credited to Manfred Muller and Paul Ernest Luhrs, two Germans who drove into the records book back in 1991 for journeying 350,000 kilometres across 83 countries in a tiny Citroen 2cv.

"All we need is to prove that we have crossed from one country to another with the same car and documents. Then we will apply for it," Mr. Schmid explained.

Having been married for 25-years, the couple said the only challenge they will face when the trip ends is adjusting to the Swiss system and routine which they abandoned in 1984.

"Life on the road has humbled us. In Switzerland, we really never valued what we had. But in our 10 years (of travel) we've grown closer as a couple and learned and experienced so many different things other than our routine life back home, which is going to be very hard to get used to again."

Zimbabwe anxious to revive trade pact with Pretoria

By Francis Mdlomwa
Reuters

HARARE — Zimbabwean exporters, crucial to the country's economic revival, hope South Africa's new government will quickly revive a preferential trade pact.

The Harare government says it plans "vigorous" talks with Pretoria to renew the pact, which dated back to 1964 but which South Africa's previous white rulers allowed to lapse.

Economic analysts say the renewal of the agreement, which covered annual two-way trade worth at least \$250 million, could take time because Pretoria is preoccupied with domestic issues and present trade agreements suit it.

"It seems the South Africans are not particularly concerned to get the trade accord renewed too quickly because they benefit more as things stand now," a bank economist said.

"They want to give time to their industries to prepare for competition."

Diplomatic sources said Zimbabwe had submitted draft proposals to the South Africans for their study but no negotiations were under way.

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe said during a visit to London in May he hoped for a new trade pact towards the end of the year. He mentioned the need for it to South African President Nelson Mandela.

Political analysts said it appeared unlikely Pretoria would approve a bilateral agreement before a planned review of overall relations with the countries of Southern Africa.

"South Africa is proceeding as slowly as possible and I don't think there will be any significant signing until there has been a major review of all agreements," one analyst said.

He suggested other coun-

tries in the region, including South Africa's partners Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and Namibia within the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), would oppose preferential treatment for Zimbabwe.

The same reaction might also be expected from other countries which are members of the 10-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC), which South Africa is due to join at its annual summit to be held in Tanzania in August.

South Africa's new Trade Minister Trevor Manuel said last month he would promote a rationalisation of economic organisations in the region.

In allowing the trade pact to lapse, thus imposing 50 per cent duties on Zimbabwean goods, Pretoria said it was protecting its own industries, mainly textiles and clothing, from unfair competition.

It hit most Zimbabwean exports to South Africa, its biggest trading partner in the region, and forced Zimbabweans to look for new markets in Europe and Asia which sharply increased transport costs.

The analysts saw the action by Pretoria in part as punishment for Zimbabwe's continued hardline attitude towards South Africa's white minority rulers negotiating their country's transition to democracy.

Mr. Mugabe was one of the most vociferous opponents of apartheid despite his country's heavy dependence on trade and transport with South Africa.

The two countries had trade missions which acted as virtual embassies, but full diplomatic ties were only established after April's landmark elections which brought Nelson Mandela and his African National Congress (ANC) to power.



A fireboat sprinkles water onto the burning supertanker Maersk Navigator off northern Sumatra in Indonesia. The 260,000-Maersk Navigator, carrying nearly two million barrels of oil, collided with the tanker San Honour resulting in a fire on the supertanker (AFP photo)

Tanker owners try to clean up environmental image

By Alistair Doyle
Reuters

OSLO — World tanker owners are seeking to clean up an image tarnished by oil spills arguing that tankers pollute oceans less than motorists dumping oil in town drains.

"Tanker accidents contribute just 4.7 per cent to oil spilled at sea... 99.98 per cent of oil arrives at its destination without incident," says their new brochure.

It comes from the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO), an Oslo-based group, whose members control more than half the world's tankers.

Lobbying for a better reputation, the group says that television pictures of blazing tankers, vast oil

slicks and dying seabirds wildly exaggerate the problem of spills.

"More oil enters the sea from motorists draining their sump oil into the town drain than all the world's tankers," it says in an unprecedented series of leaflets.

But environmentalists say tanker owners will be viewed with suspicion by world opinion until they do more to prevent ageing, rusting tankers from sailing the oceans with poorly paid, badly-trained crews.

And they say that, whatever the global statistics, massive oil spills can be disastrous locally marine life can take 15 to 20 years to recover.

INTERTANKO is organising courses for traditionally secretive tanker owners on handling the media in a crisis as part of efforts to stir a debate ab-

out responsibility for all pollution.

It is publishing a series of statistics about tankers and the environment and plans to send representatives to the site of any major spills in future to counter what many owners view as immediate doomsaying by environmentalists.

"Many people remember the Braer tanker accident," said Tormod Rafsgaard, managing director of INTERTANKO.

The Braer ran aground off Britain's far-north Shetland Isles in early 1993, spilling 85,000 tonnes of oil into the sea double the amount spilt by the Exxon Valdez off Alaska in 1989.

"Nobody died, no one was even injured," he said. "Yet how many people remember the name of the Polish ferry that sank around the same time with the loss of more than 50

lives."

The car and rail ferry Jan Heweliusz, sailing between Sweden and Poland, capsized in high seas a week after the Braer ran aground. Fifty-four died in the icy waters.

Oil from the Braer was surprisingly quickly dispersed. INTERTANKO argues that environmentalists overlook the fact that natural forces often clean up spills far more quickly than expected but only after the media have lost interest.

"INTERTANKO is missing the point. The problem is that tanker owners suffer from the worst ones in the pack," said Paul Horsman, head of the oil campaign at the International Environmental Organisation Greenpeace.

"Until tanker owners acknowledge they have a role to play in getting rid of

the bad players, they will suffer from a bad reputation," he said.

"The way INTERTANKO can make a positive difference is by getting rid of the rust buckets, sub-standard crews and incompetent masters," he said.

"There's no answer in just making a pure public relations response."

According to INTERTANKO statistics, the average age of the world's 3,000 tankers is just over 13 years — close to the oldest in a generation. Many are far older than the average.

Mr. Horsman dismissed INTERTANKO's argument that oil spills are reported widely because they make good television.

"Oil is a toxic cargo. If you had containers washed overboard with pesticides it would be the same reaction even if there were no television pictures," he

said.

INTERTANKO argues it is pushing actively for better vessels and crews. Its statistics show that the number of accidents resulting in oil pollution has fallen by 50 per cent in 20 years.

And it says that about 20 per cent of the cost of a new tanker is dedicated to safety and anti-pollution measures — compared to about 7.5 per cent invested on similar schemes by manufacturing industry as a whole.

Yet some tanker owners believe the effort to turn the tide of public opinion may be wasted.

"Some owners reckon their reputation is 'bloody awful' and that getting it even to 'awful' would be too expensive," said Philip Rankin, an advisor at INTERTANKO.

Major industrialised countries intervene to rescue U.S. dollar

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States and at least eight other countries intervened in foreign exchange markets Friday to rescue the dollar, but the battered U.S. currency continued to slide.

The Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen confirmed the intervention by the Federal Reserve (Fed) and the central banks of the other Group of Seven (G-7) partners, the world's largest industrialised countries.

"Our actions today in cooperation with our G-7 partners and other monetary authorities reflect a shared concern about recent developments in financial markets," Mr. Bentsen said in a brief statement that raised the possibility of further action if Friday's efforts fail.

Mr. Bentsen said the United States looks forward "to continued cooperation to maintain the conditions necessary for sustained economic expansion with low inflation."

The Fed was joined in the action by G-7 members Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. Denmark and Switzerland also confirmed their participation.

The Dutch and Austrian central banks bought dollars, currency dealers in New

York and Europe said.

The dollar's failure to rally after the interventions sparked selloffs on the U.S. stock and bond markets, and fears that the Federal Reserve will raise short-term interest rates for the fifth time this year to make dollar-denominated securities more attractive to investors.

In a volatile session on the New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones index of 30 leading industrials at one point was down more than 50 points in heavy trading. By 1:45 p.m. (1745 GMT), the Dow was down 44.71 points at 3,654.38.

The average interest rate on the main 30-year Treasury bond jumped to 7.51 per cent from 7.40 per cent late Thursday.

President Bill Clinton downplayed the dollar's weakness, saying it ran counter to the healing state of the U.S. economy.

The dollar's value is "a development that is puzzling a lot of economists because our economy is performing so well," he said in a radio interview from Air Force One.

Mr. Clinton pointed to the United States' lead in U.S. job growth compared with other advanced countries,

and an unemployment rate lower than that of any of the advanced countries except Japan.

"In a funny way, the currency values are running in the opposite direction of economic strength," he said.

The last international intervention, on May 4, involved 19 countries and was the largest such effort in more than a decade, but its effect was short-lived.

Friday's intervention came after the shaky dollar slid for a week and fell in Tokyo Friday to a new local closing low of 100.40 yen, from 101.31 yen Thursday. It had fallen below 100 yen in London in initial trading.

In New York, the dollar stood at 1.5960 marks just before the intervention by the Fed, which bought dollars against yen at 100.95 yen and at 101.55 yen.

The greenback jumped, then dipped and rose again following the concerted intervention. But the rally quickly eroded.

The Fed intervened again, this time against the German mark, buying dollars at the 1.6045-mark level, dealers said.

But by 1:25 p.m. (1725 GMT) in New York, the dollar was far below Thursday's close of 1.6045 marks. Against the Japanese yen, the dollar stood at 100.20, down from 101.40 Thursday.

The markets now believe the Fed will raise short-term interest rates at the next meeting of its policy-setting Open-Market Committee meeting, set July 5-6, dealers said.

In Tokyo, the governor of the Bank of Japan, Yasuichi Mieno, said currency instability is disturbing the fragile recovery of the Japanese economy.

Mr. Mieno also said that a recent surge in Japanese long-term interest rates reflected a reversal of expectations in the local bond market, indicating that rates had risen excessively in relation to economic fundamentals.

"The latest volatility in the foreign exchange market is a disturbing factor for the Japanese economy as it has just started to head towards a recovery," the central bank governor told a luncheon at the Japan National Press Club.

Mr. Mieno declined to comment on whether the Bank of Japan would conduct coordinated intervention in currency markets with other countries. But he said there was a consensus among the G-7 that foreign exchange rates should be stable and sharp volatility was undesirable.

Mr. Mieno said that the recovery of the Japanese economy could be undermined if strength of the yen accelerated a tendency by Japanese companies to move offshore although he acknowledged that the rise of the yen offered some benefits in the long term.

The rise of the yen might "prompt a reorganisation of Japanese industry, especially labour-intensive industry which is losing its competitive edge to Asian and formerly communist countries, thus dulling the tempo of economic recovery," he said.

"I'm not saying that the yen's rise is bad as it will have a certain benefit on the domestic economy in the longer run. But it has a big impact on the economy which is currently in a delicate phase," Mr. Mieno said.

Weekly analysis of movements, trends of major world currencies

This report, which covers the week from Thursday June 16, 94 to Wednesday June 22, 94, is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch — Dubai.

Overview

Fundamental View: The dollar at a new postwar record low of JPY/USD 99.8 and also fell through the bottom of the DM/USD 1.60-to-1.70 range which we have expected to prevail for much of this year. Prospects for another bout of large-scale intervention by central banks and dollar support measures by the U.S. Treasury could help the dollar recover temporarily, but a number of fundamental and confidence factors are pointing toward ongoing dollar weakness in coming quarters.

We are accordingly revising down our outlook for the dollar against European currencies, and maintaining our cautious view of the dollar's prospects against the yen. We now expect the dollar to trade at the DM/USD 1.55 level in 12 months time compared to our previous forecast of DM/USD 1.70. We maintain our 12-month forecast for the dollar at JPY/USD 95.

Technical View: The European currencies were particularly strong against the U.S. dollar during the week ended June 17 and, as a result, the dollar index fell 2.2 per cent for the period. This was the index's largest week-to-week loss since April 1993. Despite this weakness, many of the sentiment indicators that we monitor for the dollar have actually deteriorated. The inability of the index to respond to generally constructive medium term indicators is obviously a sign of weakness.

Thus, despite the fact that the downtrend is mature, more discernible signs of dollar strength will be needed before a bottom is indicated. In that regard, a rally through 92.90-93.50 will be required to break the multi-month downtrend. Significant support exists at 88.30-90.30.

Japanese yen

Fundamental View: The dollar fell to a postwar record low against the yen, breaking below the JPY/USD 100 yen level at one point. U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen is expected to unveil a support package that could boost the dollar temporarily, but we maintain our view that the dollar will be difficult to stabilise against the yen and will eventually reach the JPY/USD 95 level over the next 12 months. Barring an aggressive move toward monetary tightening by the Fed, we expect statements pointing to improved U.S.-Japan trade relations will have relatively little impact. The dollar problem now has more to do with fundamental trade and financial imbalances rather than U.S.-Japan policies.

Even with the recent hike in U.S. interest rates and low overnight rates in Japan, it is not clear that Japanese investors are willing or able to finance the Japan's huge current account imbalance after having suffered large losses on their foreign and domestic investments in recent years. We continue to expect Japan to post a current account surplus of more than \$125 billion this year. We expect the weight of that surplus, relative to underlying private sector capital flows, to eventually push the dollar toward our 12-month target of 95 yen.

Deutschemark

Fundamental View: The dollar has fallen through the bottom of the DM/USD 1.60-to-1.70 range which we expected to prevail for much of this year. Prospects for another bout of large-scale intervention by central banks and dollar support measures by the U.S. Treasury could well boost the dollar back temporarily, but a number of factors are pointing toward a period of sustained dollar weakness in coming quarters. We are accordingly revising down our outlook for the dollar against European currencies.

Factors prompting us to revise our outlook for the dollar include (1) ongoing deterioration of the U.S. trade and current accounts accompanied by net outflows of long-term capital, (2) prospects for stronger growth in Europe and slower growth in the United States, (3) prospects for real interest rate differentials to start moving in favour of European currencies, and (4) the risk of continued weak confidence in U.S. economic and foreign policy among foreign investors.

Because the dollar is already at the weak end of its historic trading range and generally undervalued on a purchasing power parity basis, we expect further weakness to be rather modest. The key point is that the U.S. unit now seems unlikely to rally on a sustained basis unless the Fed raises interest rates far more aggressively than we expect. We now expect the dollar to trade at the DM/USD 1.55 level in 12 months time compared to our previous forecast of DM/USD 1.70.

Technical View: The Deutschemark rallied 3.4 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week and continued strong during the early part of this week. Medium term sentiment remains overbought, but showed initial signs of improvement last week. Medium term momentum continues to appear to be peaking,

but short term oscillators are still constructive. This last point, plus the breakout by the Swiss franc allows for at least a test 1993's resistance at 1.568-1.588 DM/USD.

A decline through 1.657-1.671 appears required to break the uptrend channel and, therefore, is viewed as first support. The mark/yen cross-rate remains in its multi-month trading range. Short term momentum is improving, and medium term oscillators remain constructive. This confluence allows for a test of the 1994 high just under 65.00. Nearby support is at 63.60 and 62.20.

Pound sterling

Fundamental View: The British pound moved higher with the German mark against the dollar in the past week, to U.S.\$/GBP 1.53, but traded lower against the DM, near DM/GBP 2.47. In the near-term, we expect the pound to continue to trade in the 2.47-to-2.52 range that it has held since the beginning of March. In the longer-term, the pound should be able to benefit from a rising short-term rate premium against the mark. Signs of stronger economic growth reinforce our belief that U.S. base rates have bottomed. However, we do not expect an increase in rates before late in the year in light of significant spare capacity in the economy. In fact, the release of the minutes from the May 4 meeting between Bank of England Governor Eddie George and U.K. Chancellor Kenneth Clarke said that the two agreed that no change in U.K. interest rates was necessary for the time being.

A modest uptick in U.K. short-term rates coupled with a series of German repo rate cuts should lead the pound up to DM/GBP 2.60 in 12 months. In light of changes we made to dollar/Deutschemark forecast which looks for a stronger Deutschemark, we now expect the pound to trade at U.S.\$/GBP 1.68 in 12 months rather than 1.53.

Technical View: The British pound rallied 1.7 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended June 10, thereby penetrating resistance at 1.52 U.S.\$/L. Sentiment, while still officially neutral, is still at its most overbought extreme in almost two years. Short term momentum is upwardly biased, and — reflecting the narrow multi-month trading range — medium term oscillators continue to show very little definition. Resistance now exists at 1.55.

The lower end of the trading range at 1.46 is support; a break below that would allow for at least a test of the 1993 low near 1.43 and possibly long term support at 1.40-1.42. The DM cross-rate remains near its 1994 low and short term oscillators are weak. However, medium term oscillators are still trying to bottom, so while a test of 2.43-2.44 is still possible, an important low may not be that far away. First resistance exists at 2.515, with second resistance at 2.53-2.56.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JUNE 25, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Rafter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The new plans you want to put in motion should be postponed for a few days in order to assure your getting the maximum benefit. Don't let one who has been negative in the past mess up your deal.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study your appearance well and know how to improve it to your own satisfaction. Take time to engage in your favourite hobby or pastime.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can obtain the data you need which was difficult to get during regular workweek. Strive for increased happiness with your loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A fine day to cultivate new acquaintances. Take steps to make your surroundings more comfortable for your family and close friends.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Show more interest in civic affairs and gain added prestige. Take health treatments and improve your appearance by exercise and diet.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Dive into some new outlet which is appealing and could be beneficial in the future. Express your talents to those in authority.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study all the promises you have made and keep them to the best of your ability. Take no risks with money at this time or you could lose it all.

VIRO: (August 22 to September 22) A fine day to study how to improve your financial status and in a most ethical fashion. Make repairs to your property which have been put off.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Plan how to be more cooperative with associates in the future and get better results. Relax and express happiness with those in your family.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Study your environment and make plans for improvement. You can easily make a fine impression on others today which will be helpful to you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Use this day for improving conditions at home by adding more comfort. Put your talents to work with fellow associates you are around.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Communicate with associates early in the day and plan how to improve production in the future. Think constructively about proceeding on a new idea.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) A fine day to study how to improve your financial status and in a most ethical fashion. Make repairs to your property which have been put off.

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THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

MARRIAGE COUNSELOR

"I'm not immature—I simply decided not to discontinue my childhood prematurely!"

Peanuts

I THINK SNOOPY WOULD ENJOY GETTING A LETTER FROM US

WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE, DO WE?

NO, REMEMBER WHAT I USED TO TELL YOU?

WHAT WAS THAT?

OBEEDIENCE SCHOOL WAS A WASTE OF TIME!

Andy Capp

WHISPER WHISPER

I KNOW SHE'S YOUR DAUGHTER, MISSUS, BUT SHE ISN'T MADE OF MONEY!

SHE SAYS ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT NOT BALANCING THE BOOKS, THEN WHISPERS ABOUT BORROWING A TENNER TILL PENSION DAY

Mutt'n'Jeff

MUTT SAVES AFTER ALL THESE YEARS IN THIS COMIC STRIP THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO STILL DON'T KNOW WHY OF US IS

HE SAYS SOME PEOPLE CALL HIM JEFF AND THEY CALL ME MUTT! CAN YOU?

JEFF THAT'S ME

HELLO, JEFF!

JULIUS, MY TWIN BROTHER!

GET OUT OF THIS PICTURE! DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO BECOME MORE CONFUSED? ANYWAYS, EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE MY TWIN BROTHER YOU WASN'T BORN UNTIL YEARS LATER AFTER ME!

THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth White

ACROSS

1 Whistler of heaton

5 George or Arle

9 Onagobus pigment

14 Tabula

15 Lake — (source of the Blue Nile)

16 Purport

17 Catcher's glove

18 Smelter's need

19 Mrs. Kravend

20 Fib

23 Attention-giver

24 Understand

25 Yello participant

28 Outbuilding

30 Regret

31 Goller Palmer

34 Desperate

35 Pub measure

36 Fatigued

39 Nuremberg negative

40 Hawklike State

41 Relationship in quantity

42 Ames and McMahon

43 Apparat

44 Makes happen

45 Fuss

46 Marden

47 Specious display

54 Bring upon oneself

55 Have a sni

56 To — (in addition)

58 Hatched

59 Seed covering

60 Ear feature

61 Covers

62 Mandatory factor

63 City in Ohio

DOWN

1 Branch

2 Well-est met

3 Italian wine

4 Dismant unit

5 Pattered

6 Seraglio

7 Once more

8 Clean

9 Mistle clear one's view

10 Fracas

11 Source of blue dye

12 Sias

13 Veil g

14 To Catch A

22 French river

25 French river

26 Set properly

27 Navy's speed

28 Losses speed

29 Island dance

30 Outburst

31 Loosen one's

32 Community character

34 Not barefoot

35 Seasonally in

37 —'s peak (the feature)

38 Tasteless

43 Is nuts about

44 Rock

45 Grown-up

46 Russian leader

47 Neighbor of

48 Min

49 Sports org.

50 Hawk

51 Fast term

52 "High —"

53 South arid area

57 Turner

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argon

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter in each square to form four ordinary words

LIVEVO

WOPHO

JEERTS

ETONY

Answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: JOUST AFIRE ENCORE POTENT

Answer: How the podiatrist kept track of his patients — WITH FOOTNOTES

مكتبة في لندن

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close June 22, 1994	Tokyo Close June 23, 1994
Sterling Pound	1.5320	1.5311
Deutsche Mark	1.6054	1.6065
Swiss Franc	1.3505	1.3535
French Franc	5.4633	5.4935**
Japanese Yen	101.00	101.31
European Currency Unit	1.1950	1.1949**

(*) On the NYSE, European opening is 8:00 a.m. (EST)

European Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	4.1200	4.3100	4.6800	5.1200
Sterling Pound	4.7500	4.9300	5.1800	5.6800
Deutsche Mark	4.7500	4.9300	5.1800	5.6800
Swiss Franc	4.7500	4.9300	5.1800	5.6800
French Franc	5.2500	5.3700	5.5000	5.6700
Japanese Yen	1.6700	1.5700	1.3700	1.3700
European Currency Unit	5.6100	5.3700	5.3800	6.1900

Source: Reuters. All rates are annualized. U.S. Dollar = 100 percent.

Precious Metals			Date: 23 6 1999		
Metal	USD Or	JD Or	Metal	USD Or	JD Or
Gold	349.30	7.70	Silver	5.34	0.125

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Rate	Rate
U.S. Dollar	0.6900	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.0500	1.0500
Deutsche Mark	0.4295	0.4310
Swiss Franc	0.5101	0.5127
French Franc	0.1250	0.1260
Japanese Yen	0.6804	0.6838
Dutch Guilder	0.5835	0.5857

Currency	Rate	Rate
Italian Lira	0.0035	0.0035
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

Other Currencies

Currency	Rate	Rate
Bahraini Dinar	1.8150	1.8270
Taiwanese Dollar	0.040495	0.041335
Saudi Riyal	0.1637	0.1645
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3750	2.3850
Qatari Riyal	0.1675	0.1683
Egyptian Pound	0.0010	0.0010
Omani Rial	1.7720	1.7590
U.A.E. Dirham	0.1675	0.1683
Greek Drachma	0.2800	0.3190
Cypriot Pound	1.3755	1.3945

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3888/98	Canadian dollar	1.5194/24
	1.7836/46	Dutch guilders	1.7836/46
	32.78/82	Swiss francs	5.4490/40
	1570.01/5	Belgian francs	100.26/36
	7.6375/75	French francs	6.6220/30
	6.2480/30	Italian lire	2036.00/00
	\$1.5485/92	Japanese yen	161.00/00
One sterling		Swedish crowns	13.75/00
One ounce of gold	\$390.85/391.25	Norwegian crowns	4.75/00
		Danish crowns	6.46/00

AFM prices slip to all-year low

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Stock prices at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) closed at an all-year low last week, reflecting a general gloom in the market over uncertainties of Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation and the gradual withdrawal of foreign portfolio dealers, brokers said Friday.

But the brokers expected a turn-up in the fortunes of the market this week after the meeting Wednesday between His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. President Bill Clinton produced strong indications of American economic support for the Kingdom as well as advancing the Jordanian-Israeli track of peace negotiations.

The weekly AFM report said the general share price index based on 60 major companies listed at the bourse closed at 148.95 points on Wednesday, posting a drop of nearly two points or 1.7 per cent from the previous week.

It was the first time that the index had dipped down the psychological barrier of 150 points in more than one year. The index had risen to 168 points in March, the highest this year, before going on a sharp decline starting with the Jordanian-U.S. stand-off over the siege of Aqaba. The index stood at 150.8 points at last week's opening.

Doubts cast over

Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation and prospects for the Jordanian dinar in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as a result of the economic cooperation agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in April compounded the situation, leading to a steady decline in the stock prices.

Adding to the situation was a gradual withdrawal by foreign portfolio dealers from the market away towards Asian and Far Eastern markets, brokers said.

"Indications that foreign investors were coming into the AFM with nearly \$100 million in capital were behind the interest of many investors," said a broker. "They wanted to stake positions in anticipation of the foreign investors, and raised the prices. But the trend now appears to be just the opposite."

The government approved foreign investors' entry to the AFM late last year under controlled conditions and several had in fact come in. They were very conservative in getting engaged, but this was attributed to prudent policies. However, brokers said, the foreign investors were now seeing green pastures elsewhere.

According to the broker, foreign investors appeared to be more interested in Asian, Far Eastern and Central American markets where they could hope for quicker

gains. Their move was no direct reflection of the situation in the AFM despite the uncertainties, but it is now reflecting on the AFM," added the broker.

But a factor that could uplift spirits in the market was the Washington summit between King Hussein and President Clinton and strong signs that Washington would be playing a direct role in addressing some of the Kingdom's economic problems.

"An improvement could be expected this week, particularly that the Jordanian economy was the focus for the White House talks," said a broker. "Investors are hopeful that there will be a write-off of Jordanian debts to the U.S. If strong signs emerge of such an American move, then Jordanian stocks would go up."

Last week's AFM report showed that all sectors except the insurance sector suffered a beating. The index of commercial bank stock lost 0.98 per cent and closed at 162.25 points, the services sector index declined by 4.33 per cent to 136.4 points, and the industrial stock index by 0.67 points to 134.6 points.

Stocks worth JD 8.3 million changed hands during the week compared with JD 5.1 million in the previous week. The industrial sector accounts for JD 5.6 million of the week's turnover, fol-

lowed by commercial banks and financial institutions with JD 1.24 million, insurance stock with JD 600,000 and the services sector with JD 500,000.

The 62.7 per cent increase in turnover last week was mainly due to fresh stock issues by the Industrial Commercial and Agricultural Company worth JD 3.2 million and the Jordan Insurance Company worth JD 540,000.

Share of 83 companies were traded during the week, with 22 of them showing gains, 29 losing and 12 remaining stable at Wednesday's close.

It was one of the rare weeks when the insurance sector outran the services sector in turnover and also registered an upwards swing of 0.32 per cent in its index to 145.23.

Brokers said recent legislation endorsed by Parliament relaxing some of the restrictions on the insurance sector had boosted the insurance stock in the market.

"The insurance sector is seen by many as one of the key areas identified by the government in its moves towards a free market economy," said a broker with a sizeable portfolio in the market. "It seems that after two or three weeks of observation, investors think that the moves are in the right direction and hence the interest in the sector."

Pakistan, Philippines pledge to end child labour

GENEVA (R) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has announced a formal pledge by Pakistan and the Philippines to eliminate child labour.

The U.N. agency is waging a global campaign for national enforcement of ILO conventions against child labour and has called for workers' rights to have a bigger voice in trade.

"The aim of the cooperation will be to promote conditions to enable the government progressively to prohibit, restrict and regulate child labour with a view to its ultimate elimination," the ILO said in a statement regarding Pakistan and the Philippines, which signed a memorandum of understanding with the ILO Tuesday.

Pakistan and the Philippines will set up national programmes to try and prevent the employment of children in hazardous work and to protect children under 12, according to the ILO.

The ILO estimates 200 million under-age people are working in mines, factories and on the streets worldwide. Industrial countries including France and the United States argue respect for workers' rights should be tied to trade privileges, but many developing states claim the interference is disguised protectionism aimed at halting their cheap exports.

Pakistan, India and Thailand are among Asian countries heavily criticised in a recent ILO report for tolerating employment of children, often in hazardous conditions.

The ILO's report, discussed at its annual assembly in Geneva, called for Pakistan to liberate any adult or child bonded labourers not freed after the country's bonded labour system was abolished in March 1992.

Each will establish national steering committees, comprising representatives from ministries, employers' groups and workers' groups, to carry out an action programme.

The ILO will provide financial and advisory services.

With the two new accords, a total of eight states are taking part in the ILO's international programme for the elimination of child labour, a five-year plan launched in 1992 with \$30 million from Germany.

The other six countries are: Brazil, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Thailand and Turkey.

The ILO report also urged Thailand to end child prostitution, which the U.N. agency estimated involved between 200,000 and 800,000 children.

During the three-week international labour conference, Thailand has challenged the ILO's figures, saying the statistics were "incomplete and have yet to be proven."

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Bosnian Muslim commander urges offensive against Serbs

SARAJEVO (R) — The commander of the Bosnian government army urged the country's new Muslim-Croat federation to go on the offensive against rebel Serbs, Sarajevo's leading newspaper reported Friday.

"I want to go to a joint (Muslim-Croat) fight to liberate the joint state," Osobodjenje quoted General Rasim Delic as telling officers at a conference in the Bosnian capital Thursday.

"So far we have been conducting a defensive war, now we are going into phase two, a war of liberation. It means our soldiers have to overcome that psychological barrier, to get out of the trench and move."

Gen. Delic's comments, reported only hours before the Muslim-led government army was due to sign a de facto agreement with Croat militia, struck a discordant note with a Bosnia-wide truce signed in Geneva this month.

The Muslim-Croat accord, to be signed under U.N. auspices Friday in the central Bosnian town of Gorzija Vakuf, formalises a truce agreed in March when the new allies ended a year of bitter fighting and signed the federation agreement.

It will also allow the Muslims to bring more forces to bear against their remaining enemy, the Serbian Serbs.

The Geneva ceasefire agreement — intended to pave the way for international efforts to halt the 26-month-old war — was

violated in northern and central Bosnia, U.N. Protection Force spokesman Major Rob Annink said Friday.

He also said U.N. peacekeepers were forced to call in air support for the first time in weeks.

Maj. Annink pinned most of the blame for truce violations on Muslim troops.

"I would say the BiH (Muslim-led government army) is doing more of the attacking, perhaps challenging the BSA (Bosnian Serb Army) to retaliate."

Muslim forces fired 10 tank shells into the centre of Serb-held Doboj Friday, causing extensive damage, a Reuters television crew said.

Bosnian Serb radio reported that six people were wounded in the shelling.

Maj. Annink said U.N. peacekeepers escorting an aid convoy on Thursday near Teocak, in central Bosnia, came under mortar and machinegun fire from Serbs and issued their first call for air support since the Geneva truce went into effect on June 10.

NATO aircraft dropped warning flares in response. The U.N. spokesman said there were no casualties or damage in what he said was a deliberate Serb attack.

The breakaway enclave of Bihac, in the northwest, appeared calm Friday for the second day running after government troops made significant gains at the expense of Muslim rebels led by maverick tycoon Fikret Abdic.

In Washington, defence officials of NATO allies with troops in former Yugoslavia warned the Senate that dire consequences would follow if the United States unilaterally lifted the arms embargo against Bosnia.

The officials from Britain, France, Spain and Denmark testified to the Senate Armed Services Committee as the full Senate prepared to debate a proposal to force President Bill Clinton to lift the United Nations-mandated arms ban.

The Senate has already voted in favour of lifting the ban so that Bosnian Muslims can defend themselves against Serb attacks, but it has left unclear whether the United States should act alone.

The House of Representatives has come out in favour of unilateral action.

"We believe that the lifting of the arms embargo would have the effect of pouring gasoline on fire and mean an all-out war," said Danish Undersecretary for Defence Anders Troldborg.

The United States, Russia and European powers are expected at a July 9-10 economic summit in Italy to endorse a plan dividing Bosnia along ethnic lines with penalties if the combatants refuse to cooperate.

The plan gives 51 per cent of Bosnia to Muslims and Croats and 49 per cent to Serbs, who now control about 72 per cent and are reluctant to yield so much territory.

Meanwhile, the Washington Times said Friday Bosnia is getting Iranian arms shipped through Croatia "with tacit approval" of the Clinton administration that publicly opposes unilaterally lifting the arms embargo.

The newspaper said "Croatia has become a major transit point for covert Iranian arms shipments to Bosnia with the tacit approval of the Clinton administration..." quoting intelligence sources.

In its report, the paper quoted a senior U.S. official that "there is no U.S. support for what Iran is doing."

But the paper said intelligence sources have reported the U.S. closely monitors Iran and halted an arms shipment to Bosnia last September but that the U.S. has not protested Iranian shipments of arms to Bosnia through Croatia. The paper said such shipments have increased since March.

"The lack of protests caused the Croatians to assume the administration has 'winked' at the arms shipments," the paper said, quoting an unnamed source.

Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic pleaded for the embargo to be lifted "to create conditions for peace and for negotiations through balance in weaponry."

He voiced little concern about warnings that lifting the embargo would result in the departure of U.N. forces, saying their role had been overstated.



Supporters of opposition leader Moshood Abiola, who unofficially won last June's annulled Nigerian presidential poll, run in Lagos' streets as Mr. Abiola addresses the crowd in a show of defiance to the military regime. Nigerian police arrested Mr. Abiola at his Lagos home (AFP photo)

Troops tighten security in Lagos

LAGOS (R) — Nigerian police and troops stepped up security in Lagos Friday for a visit by military ruler General Sani Abacha following the arrest of opposition leader Moshood Abiola.

Gen. Abacha, who seized power in November, was expected to visit military establishments to explain his government's handling of Nigeria's political crisis and its political programme.

Armed police were stationed at key points of the sprawling city and troops guarded the area around Dodan Barracks, the former offices and residence of Nigeria's head of state.

The police are out in force here. There are three armoured cars patrolling Yaba and Maryland, a student leader said.

Hundreds of demonstrators, many of them youths, marched in central Lagos Thursday night demanding Mr. Abiola's release.

The demonstrators included Mr. Abiola's chief wife, Kudrat.

Mr. Abiola, who is widely believed to have won an annulled presidential election in June 1993, was arrested Thursday. He was wanted for treason since proclaiming himself president on June 11 in a direct challenge to the military government.

Police have not said where they are keeping him, raising concern among his family and supporters about his condition.

Opposition groups had threatened street protests after 24 hours if the authorities did not free the millionaire businessman-turned-politician.

"We are not worried at all. Lagos is calm and quiet and I believe it will remain so," Police Deputy Inspector General Nuhu Aliyu told Reuters.

The arrest climaxes a two-month stand-off between the National Democratic Coalition (NADECO) opposition alliance and government.

Mr. Abiola joins dozens of politicians and human rights activists detained since NADECO began demanding that Gen. Abacha surrender power to Mr. Abiola to restore democracy in Africa's most populous nation.

Many face treason charges, including former senior politicians. Mr. Abiola could face similar charges for which the punishment is life imprisonment.

Soldiers have ruled Nigeria for most of the time since independence from Britain in 1960.

Gen. Abacha plans to hold a constitutional conference in

the inland capital Abuja from Monday to write a new charter.

The government Friday named 96 people, many of them former politicians and officials to participate in the conference. They join some 273 conference delegates elected last month in a poll boycotted heavily in the southwest.

Government nominees are from each of Nigeria's 30 states and the federal territory of Abuja and include representatives of traditional rulers but not the pro-democracy movements.

According to the government, political activity will be allowed in January when a hand-over date will be announced.

Also Friday, Nigerian police fired tear gas to disperse Lagos market women protesting against the arrest of opposition leader Moshood Abiola, the opposition said.

"Over 1,000 market women marched in central Lagos this morning but they were dispersed by police tear gas," said Segun Jegede, an official of the Campaign for Democracy (CD).

Residents in Lagos' Ikeja district reported a separate protest involving hundreds of pro-Abiola supporters, who were marching along streets.

Spring: compromise vital over N. Ireland

CORFU, Greece (R) — Britain and Ireland have to make constitutional compromises to achieve a breakthrough in the Northern Ireland conflict, Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said Friday.

He also welcomed "a great deal of deliberation and consideration" by Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas of an Anglo-Irish peace plan but warned the IRA a temporary ceasefire was not the path to permanent peace.

Mr. Spring, speaking in advance of a meeting at the European Union summit between British Prime Minister John Major and Irish leader Albert Reynolds, said: "Both sides have to make compromises if we are going to make progress." Both leaders are to hold a full-scale summit at the end of July which could hopefully produce the framework for a comprehensive peace formula.

Mr. Spring told BBC Radio: "It is a very tight deadline that we will be doing our best."

The agreement could include Ireland dropping its constitutional claim to Northern Ireland and Britain might change the Government of Ireland Act which gives it authority over the province where more than 3,000 have been killed since 1969 in the Irish Republican Army guerrilla campaign.

Mr. Spring said: "Both governments accept there has to be a constitutional balance but obviously what we want to get is a formulation that is acceptable to both communities in Northern Ireland."

Last December Britain and Ireland signed a joint peace declaration that sought to allay the fears of the Protestant majority in Northern Ireland which wants to remain British and the Catholic nationalist minority which aspires to Irish unity.

Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, has promised to give its response shortly on the Anglo-Irish peace declaration after months of prevarication.

Extremists from both sides of the sectarian divide have plunged into the political vacuum. Last weekend six Catholics were gunned down and killed in a Northern Ireland pub by Protestant extremists.

Mr. Spring said: "A hopeful Sinn Fein/IRA can remove themselves from the violence and announce a permanent cessation of violence and I think it has to be clear and unequivocal if we are going to end the conflict."

British officials were careful not to heighten expectations before the Reynolds-Major meeting. "There is still ground to be covered," one senior official said.

Anti-corruption campaigner leads in Belarus elections

MINSK (R) — Radical anti-corruption crusader Alexander Lukashenko opened a big lead in the first round of the Belarus presidential election, unexpectedly pushing conservative Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich into a distant second place.

An electoral official said Friday that according to preliminary figures Mr. Lukashenko, who has pledged to oust bribe-takers from government of the former Soviet republic, won 45.1 per cent of the vote.

Mr. Kebich, who focused his campaign on a proposed monetary union with Russia and led in pre-election opinion polls, was far back in second place with 17.4 per cent.

If the figures are confirmed the two men will go through to a second round in two weeks. Fifty per cent was required for outright victory.

In third place was nationalist Zenon Poznyak, who polled a surprising 12.9 per cent. Stanislav Shushkevich, Belarus' first head of state and standard-bearer of liberal hopes, was fourth with 9.9 per cent.

The flamboyant Lukashenko, who drew huge crowds with accusations of high-level abuses, appeared to benefit from a wave of despair and revulsion over plunging living standards more than two years after independence.

"My first move as president will be to stop inflation and price rises," Mr. Lukashenko told a cheering crowd at a rally in the final week of campaigning.

"My second step will be to put an end to corruption and extinguish the mafia occupying all government offices."

He alleged during the campaign that unknown assailants had opened fire on his car and that he had been followed and his telephone tapped.

Mr. Kebich, 58 and prime minister since 1990, has advocated cautious reform. Belarus has made far less progress at introducing reforms than Russia or even neighbouring Ukraine.

He emphasised his commitment to the monetary union by holding talks in the Kremlin with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on the eve of the vote and announcing that Moscow had eased the terms of the pact.

Mr. Lukashenko proposed little in terms of an economic programme but that did not seem to matter much to voters. Like Mr. Kebich, he called for closer ties with Russia in a country with little national identity in the post-Soviet era.

But the 39-year-old moustached anti-corruption campaigner proved far more appealing than the uncharismatic and dour prime minister.

"Be wise," Mr. Lukashenko told voters last week. "Enjoy the government's presents but vote for the man who will make your life better."

Much will depend on how the losers in Thursday's first round mobilise their supporters to vote in the decisive ballot.

Two arch-conservative candidates who finished at the bottom of the race may have voted and will almost certainly now throw their support behind him.

U.S. agencies support chemical arms ban

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Thursday there is growing evidence Russia is continuing to develop advanced chemical weapons and Moscow is failing to fulfil a promise to disclose full details of its programme.

Despite this, the State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Pentagon strongly pressed the Senate to ratify a treaty banning such arms.

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, CIA Director James Woolsey cited "growing evidence that Russia has continued elements of an offensive programme."

In particular he cited recent comments by Russian scientist Val Mirzayanov that Russia was continuing to develop chemical agents and binary weapons. "The Mirzayanov allegations have provided many fruitful leads to pursue in both intelligence and diplomatic channels," he said.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Shalikashvili, also backed ratifying the treaty at a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee examining the issue.

Berlusconi names spokesman to end ministerial contradictions

ROME (AFP) — The Italian prime minister has appointed Giuliano Ferrara as government spokesman in an attempt to end the flow of contradictory comments made by his ministers over how to cut the public deficit.

Mr. Ferrara, a former journalist who was a long-time supporter of the Socialists, will be "the voice of the government in its collegiality," the daily La Stampa commented Friday.

Silvio Berlusconi's decision came at the end of the week in which ministers made all sorts of vague and usually contradictory statements about how the government would bring the deficit, which is already close to 160 trillion lira down at least to the year's target of 154 trillion lira (about \$100 billion).

Added to the deficit is the 32.5 trillion hole which appeared last week in the accounts of the Istituto Nazionale della Previdenza Sociale (INPS), Italy's social security.

"I formally deny that the government has ever spoken of reappraising the budget, of austerity measures, of a moratorium or of raising taxes on cigarettes and petrol," said Mr. Berlusconi at the end of Thursday's cabinet meeting.

All these suggestions had been made by ministers.

Treasury Minister Lamberto Dini said last Friday that any budgetary reappraisal would have to be "substantial."

Three days later Budget Minister Giancarlo Pajiarini publicly suggested a rise in indirect tax on cigarettes and petrol.

Transport Minister Publio Fiori added that he had a plan "to resolve the most immediate problems" with a 50 trillion lira injection into

state coffers "without cutting spending or introducing new taxes." However, not a single detail of the plan was revealed.

Industry Minister Vito Gnutti then warned Italians that they would "all be hit with austerity measures," while Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia had given the impression during its electoral campaign that "austerity can be accompanied by tax cuts."

Gianni Letta, under-secretary to the premier and very close to Mr. Berlusconi, then said measures would be announced "before the holidays."

On Thursday Mr. Berlusconi had had enough. "We are seeking means of intervention which will be the fruit of our imaginations and not the result of old recipes cooked up by previous governments," he said. He gave no further details.

Philippine film awards row after envelopes switch

MANILA (R) — The Philippine film industry was engulfed in controversy Friday when two of the country's most popular stars refused to return best-actor awards after the winning envelopes were apparently switched. Police were ordered to investigate how the envelopes contained the names of the wrong winners of the best actor and actress awards at the Manila Film Festival Wednesday night.

"We are gathering evidence against whoever are the culprits and we will file charges," Police Major Carlos Baltazar said. The row erupted during the televised awards ceremony when actor Gabby Concepcion was named best actor and Ruffa Gutierrez best actress for her role in a local dramatisation of the Lina Lashin affair.

The official result of the judges' vote prepared by a prestigious Manila accounting firm showed the real winners were actor Edu Manzano and actress Aiko Melendez. Told by shocked accountants of the apparent switch, Manila's mayor and festival organiser Alfredo Lim ordered a police probe Thursday and demanded Concepcion and Gutierrez return the trophies. The pair refused. Co-presenter Virella Babajay, who represented Mauritius at last month's Miss Universe contest in Manila and announced Gutierrez as winner, was also under investigation. "If Miss Mauritius is involved, we will deport her," Mr. Baltazar said. Ms. Gutierrez, who came third in the 1993 Miss World pageant in South Africa, was dragged into a controversy last year after a senator alleged that local actresses had accepted money for sex with members of the Brunei royalty. She denied involvement.

Munich film studios damaged in blaze

MUNICH, Germany (AFP) — A blaze overnight caused damage estimated at 1.5 million German marks (\$940,000) at the Bavaria Film Studios in the southern city of Munich, police said Friday. It took almost 200 firemen several hours to bring the blaze under control, police said, adding that nobody had been hurt in the incident. An enquiry has been opened to determine the cause of the fire.

Zulu royalty fails to show for 'Lion King' premiere

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The first animated film to be dubbed into Zulu, Walt Disney's 'The Lion King', went on general release in South Africa Friday after a glittering premiere featuring lion cubs, Zulu maidens and thumping drums. Scores of celebrities — but not the king of the Zulus — turned out for the Thursday night premiere. In the film solely about animals, an orphaned royal lion cub is driven from his home but after a series of adventures returns to claim his kingdom. It is being shown in Zulu and English versions. Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini and Chief Mangosuthu Buthezi — who had a cameo role as king in the 1964 British Zulu war film 'Zulu' with Michael Caine — were invited to the premiere but could not make it. Two 12-day-old cubs from a lion park outside Johannesburg, women dressed in traditional Zulu outfits and African drummers set the mood. Blake Todd, Walt Disney's vice-president of character and voice dubbing, said the success of the Zulu version of 'The Lion King' would decide the future of the company's filmmaking in Africa. "This could be the start for Africa — if Ster-Kinekor finds there is a good market there might well be more. Walt Disney is certainly proud of the ENE product."

Title-carrying coronation role up for auction

LONDON (R) — A title which could give its owner the right to a cameo role when Britain's Prince Charles is crowned king is to be auctioned next month, the organisation charged with its sale said. A spokeswoman for the Manorial Society of Great Britain said interest has been intense in the auction of the Lordship of the Manor of Worsop in Nottinghamshire, central England, on July 6.

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Italy overcome loss of Baggio, Baresi, Pagliuca to defeat Norway 1-0

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Italy overcame the loss of its offensive and defensive stars, its starting goalkeeper and a one-man disadvantage to beat Norway 1-0 Thursday in the first round of the World Cup.

Dino Baggio's header from 7 metres on Giuseppe Signori's 69th-minute free kick gave Italy three desperately needed points following its opening 1-0 loss to Ireland.

The result left Ireland, Italy and Norway tied atop Group E with three points each.

The victory not only was a boost to Italy's chances to reach the second round but also the team's confidence, after having to play a man short from the 22nd minute when goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca was ejected for a handball outside the penalty area.

"Our players have been great," said Sacchi, who ran off the bench when Baggio scored. "Now we must think of Mexico, because we have many injured players. We must win against Mexico now."

Italy faces Mexico Tuesday in Washington.

Pagliuca came way off his line to thwart Norwegian midfielder Oyvind Leonhardsen, who had broken in alone against the keeper in the 22nd minute.

Pagliuca, an eight-year veteran of Italian first-division club Sampdoria and making his 20th appearance for the Italian national team, made a sliding block of Leonhardsen's shot in the penalty arc. But he used his hands to block the ball and then knocked down Leonhardsen to bring out the red card from German referee Hellmut Krug.

Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi removed Roberto Baggio, who has been suffering from an inflamed achilles tendon, and sent in reserve keeper Luca Marchegiani to replace Pagliuca.

"I was really sorry to decide the substitution of Roberto Baggio, but I needed players who could run a lot and I didn't want to exhaust him in such hard

work," Sacchi said. The one-man advantage appeared to do little for Norway's offense, getting only a few chances in the later stages of the first half.

"I was very disappointed with the performance of the team," Norwegian coach Egil Olsen said. "We gave the ball away a number of times on our own half, and other times we didn't give the ball away but it ended up being a free kick."

Italy had dominated the play until Pagliuca's expulsion, getting its best chance in the 14th minute when Nicola Bertoni sent in a header off a corner kick that required Norwegian keeper Erik Thorstvedt to make a diving block on at the right post.

Italy was further hampered when sweeper Franco Baresi left the game in the 48th minute limping with a

sprained knee, and was replaced by Luigi Apolloni, who was making only his second appearance for the Azzurri.

Italy pressed from the second-half kickoff and it finally paid off after Signori was pulled down on the left side outside the penalty area.

He bent a cross into the area, where Dino Baggio was able to head it over a flat-footed Thorstvedt.

"All I can see is that header," Thorstvedt said. "I don't even know who scored. There were an incredible number of free kicks from that area."

"I am incredibly disappointed. This was a unique chance. We should have at least had a draw. It was almost embarrassing to lose a game like this. So we just have to calm down and look at we did."



Italian player Dino Baggio (C) is congratulated by teammates Daniele Massaro (L) and Nicola Bertoni after he scored Italy's goal against Norway to give them a 1-0 victory (AFP photo)

Bolivia, S. Korea tie

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) — Bolivia and South Korea played to a 0-0 draw Thursday in a Group C game, leaving both teams winless in World Cup finals.

In the 1994 tournament's first scoreless draw, South Korea had two late scoring chances denied and Bolivian left defender Luis Cristaldo was ejected seven minutes from time.

Bolivia mostly had the better of play, but sloppy finishing and South Korea's disciplined defense kept it scoreless. In punishing end-to-end play, South Korea's speedy forwards used counterattacks to try to force mistakes in Bolivia's shaky defense.

Bolivia was missing striker Marco Etcheverry, starting a two-game suspension after being sent off for a kick at Lohar Mathias in a 1-0 opening loss to Germany.

South Korea, in its fourth World Cup finals appearance, retained chances of advancing to the second round despite failing to win its easiest game. The Koreans face Germany in their last first-round game Monday.

Thursday's game left Germany atop the group with four points. Spain and South Korea both have two, Bolivia one.

Bolivia, which also was at the 1950 tournament, remained scoreless in World Cup finals.

Before a crowd of 56,456 at Foxboro Stadium, Bolivia threatened in the 18th minute as Cristaldo floated a cross from left that Julio Baldivieso

headed just wide of the Korean goal.

The two mainstay players will be missing in the final group game against Spain — Cristaldo with an automatic suspension after being sent off and Baldivieso for collecting his second caution of the tournament in Thursday's game.

Bolivia's Erwin Sanchez came closest in the first half when he drilled a free kick from the edge of the penalty area at the near goal corner, forcing South Korean keeper and captain Choi In Young into a standstill save.

A Bolivian defensive slip forced keeper Carlos Trucco into an excursion through the penalty area to run down Kim Joo Sung but when the ball went loose, Hwang nailed a shot high and wide.

Hwang Sun Hong shook off a defender in the 35th minute to set up a clear straight-ahead shot at the Bolivian goal, but the ball sailed high over the crossbar.

A minute later, Trucco nearly sent a ricochet into his own goal when Kim Joo Sung blocked his kick out of the penalty area.

Seo Jung Won was on target for the Koreans with a 50th-minute low volley off a loose bouncer but Trucco dived to turn it around the near post.

Hwang could have put it away for South Korea at 81 minutes when he stepped ahead of Miguel Rimba in the penalty area, but his point-blank shot was smothered by a diving Trucco.



CHEERING CROWDS: Fans of the U.S. national soccer team cheer prior to the start of the World Cup game between the U.S. and Colombia Wednesday at Pasadena's Rose Bowl. The U.S. beat Colombia 2-1. Below, the match 4-1 (AFP photos)



Americans discover soccer

DANA POINT, Calif. (AP) — After 78 years of obscurity, soccer in the United States was hot Thursday.

All day long, the telephones kept ringing at the Dana Point Resort. Television stations wanted Tony and Tab, Alexi and Cobi.

Wednesday night's 2-1 upset of Colombia put U.S. soccer player's names in the news, and possibly ensured the World Cup will be a success.

"Maybe 10 years from now they're going to talk about whether the U.S. is going to win the World Cup," goalkeeper Tony Meola said.

It might have been the most important win in the history of U.S. soccer. The United States won a World Cup game for the first time since 1950 and is almost certain to advance past the opening round for the first time since 1930. About 2.7 million homes were tuned in to the ESPN cable channel that carried the game with English language commentary, and there may be a record U.S. television audi-

ence for soccer when the Americans play Romania Sunday in their final-round game.

"We've seen people on the freeways with their windows painted 'USA 2, Colombia 1,' things we've never seen before," defender Paul Caligiuri said.

For so many years, they'd been regarded as those guys playing that foreign sport. As recently as May 7, a game against Estonia at Cal State-Fullerton drew just 2,158.

But now, it's sort of like

the Olympic ice hockey team in 1980. U.S. sports fans who knew almost nothing about soccer are starting to rally around the flag. It may not be as overwhelming as it was for hockey, but it's starting to happen.

"That was inspiring, what they did. The Mike Ernziones, the Jim Craigs, athletes who normally don't get attention," Caligiuri said, recalling two stars of the 1980 Olympic ice hockey team. "I think that's happening for ourselves, too."

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World Cup fever claims 2nd victim

BANGKOK (AFP) — A World Cup-crazy Thai committed suicide after losing a 10,000-baht (\$400) bet that the Netherlands would beat Saudi Arabia by at least two goals.

Sayan Jandee, 26, hanged himself after his favourite could only manage a 2-1 win.

"Goodbye, my darling,"

he said in a farewell note to his wife. "Please take care of our little daughter. We will meet again in another life." Last weekend, a cafe owner in Macau dropped dead from exhaustion after watching the World Cup on television for two nights running, followed by work throughout the next day without sleep.

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ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED BY Jordan University of Science & Technology Tender No. (27/94)

Jordan University of Science & Technology has pleasure in inviting Local Consultants and International Consultants in Joint-venture with Local Consultants to submit their applications and their technical and financial offers for the Consulting and Supervision of the Construction of the King Abdullah Hospital Project. Application forms can be obtained from the Secretary of the Tendering Committee during working hours (Saturday-Wednesday) starting Saturday June 25, 1994 till Saturday July 9, 1994 at a non-refundable fee of JD100 (One Hundred Jordanian Dinars).

Submission of the documents should be in accordance with the following conditions:

1. Tender proposals should be submitted by hand to the Chairman of the Central Tendering Committee not later than 12:00 noon, Saturday July 23, 1994.
2. Each tender shall be accompanied by tender bond in favour of the Jordan University of Science and Technology drawn from or approved by an accredited bank in Jordan in an amount not less than two per cent (2%) of the total tender sum. Such bond shall remain valid for a period of not less than three months from the closing date of the Tender Submission.
3. Tender proposals not abiding by the above-mentioned conditions and the conditions mentioned in the Tender Documents will not be considered.

Chairman, Tendering Committee, Univ. Secretary General, Dr. H. Dweiry.

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In celebration of Canada Day, Canadian citizens in Jordan are invited to attend a picnic which will be held on Friday, July 1st, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Yajuz area. Activities will include a barbecue, live music and door prizes. Canadians interested in attending should bring proof of citizenship to the Embassy to obtain free entrance tickets, a map and information sheet. The Embassy will not provide transportation.

Fête du Canada

A l'occasion de la Fête du Canada, les Canadiennes et les Canadiens résidents en Jordanie sont cordialement invités à un pique-nique qui aura lieu vendredi le premier juillet à Yajuz de 17h00 à 20h00. Il y aura pour cette occasion un barbecue, de la musique et des prix. Les Canadiens désirant participer sont priés de se présenter à l'ambassade avec preuve de citoyenneté pour obtenir un carton d'entrée, un plan et un feuillet de renseignements. L'ambassade ne fournit pas le transport au site.

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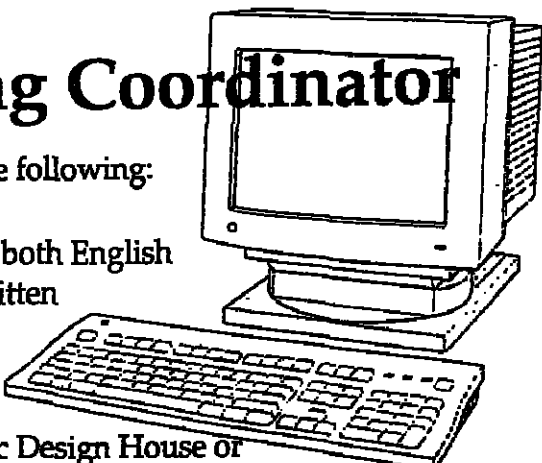
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مركزنا في الشمال

Argentina aim to exorcise ghost of Cameroon in their Nigeria match

FOXBORO, Massachusetts (R) — Argentina's reborn World Cup side look well enough equipped to overcome the Cameroon syndrome when they meet Nigeria in a Group D match Saturday — a clash between the champions of South America and Africa.

But they will need to show the same craft and guile as they did in the 4-0 rout of Greece Tuesday to counter the rapid thrusts of Nigeria's pacy attack spearheaded by the tall Rashidi Yekini.

Twice champions Argentina have unhappy memories of their last World Cup clash with an African side when Cameroon upset them 1-0 in the opening match of the 1990 finals in Italy.

Coach Alfio Basile, reminded the Nigeria's forwards are in some ways similar to Colombia's who ran rings round his defence in a 5-0 qualifying rout last year, said Argentina would not alter their game.

Basile said: "We won't put a man on Yekini. I'm not going to change. Every time

people mention the match against Colombia I tell them that I would play them the same way again."

But Argentina have made a significant improvement since the debacle in Buenos Aires and also shrugged off the unpopular defensive shackles of the 1990 World Cup.

Their strikers Gabriel Batistuta, hat-trick scorer against Greece, and Claudio Caniggia — playing with a painful, bruised toe — can match, if not better Yekini and fellow striker Finidi George for speed and finishing.

Nigeria's Dutch coach Clements Westerhof said Yekini, who scored in the Africans' 3-0 victory over Bulgaria in Dallas Tuesday, should have had three.

"You have not seen the real Super Eagles yet," he said.

The key for Argentina lies in midfield where Basile will be looking for rising stars Fernando Redondo and Diego Simeone to found a solid base and dictate the



Today's matches

Group F: Belgium vs The Netherlands in Orlando at 19:30 Amman time.

Group F: Saudi Arabia vs. Morocco in New York at 19:30 Amman time.

Group D: Argentina vs. Nigeria in Boston at 23:00 Amman time.

pace.

Redondo, who will be playing his club football for Real Madrid next season, said: "Argentina have more options in attack."

Nigeria snatched the initiative from Bulgaria after the Europeans had failed to capitalise on a dominant start.

Westerhof did not feel the need to man-mark Bulgaria's Barcelona star Hristo Stoichkov, who he did not consider so much of a danger on the ball. But he will not give Argentina's captain Diego Maradona, at 33, still unmatched as a ball player, the same room.

Hinting that attacking midfielder Augustine Okocha of Eintracht Frankfurt might be given the man-to-man task, Westerhof said: "You don't put a woodpecker on Maradona, you put a star on a star."

Okocha, who is nursing a minor knee injury, said he was not sure whether he would play, but that if he did "Maradona will also have to mark me. I'll play when I have the ball."

Belgium, Netherlands vie for Group F supremacy

ORLANDO (R) — Belgium and the Netherlands, given a fright by less-fancied opposition in their opening Group F matches, battle for early assurance of a second round World Cup place Saturday.

Belgium scraped through 1-0 against Morocco in Orlando in their first game and the Dutch came from behind to grab a late 2-1 win over Saudi Arabia in Washington.

It was a chastening experience for both, particularly the Dutch who were caught cold by a 19th minute Saudi strike before Wim Jonk hauled them back with a goal after the interval and substitute Gaston Taument headed the winner three minutes from the end.

"I feel we should thank them for what they did," Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp said. "They woke us up. We were asleep in that game until the second half and I think it has done us some good."

Taument may well get his chance on the right wing in the starting line-up against Belgium in preference to Marc Overmars, the player he replaced in the second half last Monday.

Belgium team chief Paul van Hinst envisages a change in his formation to meet the threat he knows he can expect the Dutch to pose down the wings and to shore up deficiencies exposed by the lively Moroccans in midfield.

Central defender Philippe Albert, who missed the Morocco match because of suspension, looks sure to return — and for this clash at least — the attack will almost certainly be reduced from three strikers to two.

Luc Nilis is likely to stand

down, leaving Sunday's goalscorer Marc Degryse and Croatian-born Josip Weber, five-goal hero on his Belgian debut against Zambia earlier this month, up front.

Apart from a goalless draw in a 1987 friendly, Belgium and the Netherlands have not met since two World Cup qualifiers in late 1985.

Each won one but the Belgians went through to the 1986 final tournament in Mexico where they reached the semifinals before falling to eventual champions Argentina.

Dutch coach Dick Advocaat played down the rivalry between the two teams.

"It is not extra motivation to us that it is Belgium and that it is so long since we played them," he said. "You don't need any motivation when you are playing in the World Cup."

"They have a different style from us. They play on the counter-attack but we always play full-out attack."

Belgium will hope Weber can exploit any holes in the Dutch defence with his sharp predatory instinct.

Manager van Hinst — a fine international marksman in his day — said after the Saudi match that Dutch veteran Ronald Koeman was a very good player but had been a little slow getting back.

Belgium are the seeded team in the Group but van Hinst mischievously told Dutch journalists his side would be the underdogs Saturday.

"Holland are going to play Brazil in the final, as you've all been saying. Of course we're the underdogs," he joked at the team base in Daytona beach Thursday.

McNeil advances; Edberg conqueror out of Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Lori McNeil, the surprise conqueror of Steffi Graf, reached Wimbledon's fourth round with a solid victory Friday. But another giantkiller, Kenneth Carlsen, fell ill and withdrew a day after upsetting Stefan Edberg.

McNeil, in her best Wimbledon since 1989, defeated Kristie Boogert of the Netherlands, 6-2, 6-4.

Carlsen, a Dane ranked 113th in the world, began vomiting during his third-round match with Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden and withdrew while trailing 6-4, 4-1.

Edberg, a two-time champion, in five sets Thursday. In other matches Friday, No. 10 seed Michael Chang defeated Grant Connell of

Canada, 7-6 (7-4), 6-4, 6-2, and South African Wayne Ferreira beat Chris Wilkinson, one of two Britons still left in the tournament, 6-2, 6-3.

McNeil was joined the fourth round by fellow American Lindsay Davenport, the no. 9 seed who turned 18 this month. Playing in only her second Wimbledon, Davenport beat Barbara Rittner of Germany, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

An American playing her 14th Wimbledon, 32-year-old Pam Shriver, ran out steam in her match, losing to Argentina's Florencia Labat, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2. Labat will play McNeil in the fourth round.

Larisa Neiland of Latvia defeated No. 6 seed Kimiko Date of Japan, 6-3, 6-2, but it was scarcely an upset. Neiland has reached the fourth round

here once before, in 1988, while Date is weak on grass, losing by the second round in her four previous Wimbledon.

No. 14 seed Amanda Coster of South Africa won 6-4, 6-3 over American Ginger Helgeson. And Kristine Radford of Australia reached her first Grand Slam fourth round the easy way when Argentina's Ines Gorrochategui pulled out of their third-round match because of injury.

The battle for the women's title has been thrown wide open following the first-round ouster of top seed and defending champion Steffi Graf.

No. 2 seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario was installed as the odds-makers' favourite,

IOC marks 100th anniversary

PARIS (AP) — The Olympic movement returned to its roots Thursday, celebrating its 100th birthday in the same room where the founding fathers revived the games exactly a century ago.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), created June 23, 1894, held a formal ceremony in the grand amphitheatre of the Sorbonne to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the birth of the modern games.

The Olympics, begun by the Greeks in 776 B.C. and discontinued in 392 A.D., were brought back to life by Pierre de Coubertin.

The French baron, who first raised the idea to a sceptical audience at the Sorbonne in 1892, saw his dream fulfilled two years later when

79 delegates from 10 countries voted to re-establish the games and form the IOC. The first Olympics of the modern era were held in 1896 in Athens.

"There were many critics who considered his initiatives absurd," IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said. "Thanks to his exceptional intellectual qualities he was able to overcome all obstacles."

Samaranch said the Olympic movement today remains true to be Coubertin's ideals.

"The Olympism of today is faithful to the conception of its initiator," he said, adding, "We are convinced that in the future, as in the past, Olympism will show its force for conciliation and its humanism in promoting

peace and international understanding."

Samaranch said the IOC has fought against apartheid in South Africa, worked for observance of an "Olympic truce" during the period of the games, and provided moral and material support to the war-shattered former Olympic host city of Sarajevo.

"Conscious of its responsibility, the IOC now plays its allotted roles in the contemporary world," he said.

Looking ahead to the centennial Olympics of 1996 in Atlanta, Samaranch said, "We are convinced that the organisers will spare no efforts to ensure that the games of the XXVI Olympiad will be the best in our history."

Morocco aim to make up for unlucky defeat

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (R) — Morocco, unlucky losers against Belgium in their opening World Cup Group F match, need to beat Saudi Arabia convincingly Saturday to boost their chances of reaching the last 16.

Appearing in their third World Cup finals, Morocco were encouraged by that performance against Belgium in which only the heroics of opposition goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme deprived them of deserved point.

Their plan is now to take three points from the Saudis and hope that a point against the Dutch in their last match June 29 will be enough to put them into the second round.

"We must play an attacking game on Saturday. We must be aggressive," said Rachid Daoudi, the gifted midfielder who had an impressive game against Belgium.

The Saudis, in their first finals, can also take a great deal of comfort from their opening game, which ended in a 2-1 defeat by the Netherlands.

The 500-1 outsiders rocked the former European champions, taking the lead through a goal by Fuad Anwar Amin, and only a goalkeeper blunder by the previously excellent Mohammad Al Deayea five minutes from time cost them a point.

Moroccan goalkeeper Khalil Azmi was carried on a stretcher in the closing minutes of the match with Belgium but is expected to be fit.

He and Saudi opposite number Al Deayea should have a busy afternoon Saturday with a draw of no use to either team.

The main Moroccan strike threat is provided by the experienced Mohammed Chaouch, who plays his club soccer with Nice in the French second division. Chaouch twice rattled the Belgian crossbar in Orlando last Sunday.

Saudi Arabia look to Majed Abdullah to find the back of the net — the man called the "Desert Pele" is credited with no less than 118 goals in 167 appearances for his country, including friendly matches.

Morocco met Saudi Arabia in the opening phases of the 1984 Olympic soccer tournament in Los Angeles, the Moroccans winning that encounter 1-0 but failing to reach the next round.

They fared better in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, holding Poland and England to draws before beating Portugal 3-1 to reach the second round where they went down 1-0 to eventual runners-up West Germany.

That run remains the best-ever showing by an Arab nation at the World Cup.

NBA champions Houston make it safe for scoring

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets made the NBA safe again for scoring. They vanquished the villainous New York Knicks, who had taken the thrills and the points out of basketball.

The Knicks, more concerned about success than style, were criticised for their hard-hitting defensive approach that was not pretty. It was simply effective and it best fit their skills.

It almost took them to the top of the NBA. They made it to the seventh game of the finals Wednesday night but lost to the Rockets 90-84 in the lowest scoring seven-game playoff series since the shot clock was introduced in 1954.

The Knicks were merely doing what the other 26 NBA teams try to do, keep the opponent from scoring. It is just that the Knicks did it better than any of those teams for each of the past two seasons.

In their 25 playoff games, they allowed an average of 87.7 points per game. The Rockets managed just 86.1 points, the lowest finals average ever even though they

won. "The fact that we're unwanted and unloved and the fact that people say we don't deserve to be in the finals because of our style makes us play even harder," Riley said. "But the finals are not about style, they're about winning."

The Rockets weren't so different. They could play physically, too. In the finals, New York had only 21 more rebounds and scored just 86.9 points per game. Houston matched the Knicks intensity down the stretch, with all games being decided in the last three minutes.

"It seemed like it was a boxing match," Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "You take a haymaker, you take a couple of steps back and then you come back at them."

"I think we felt very comfortable out there on the floor" in the fourth quarter Wednesday, Houston forward Otis Thorpe said. "We knew we had 12 minutes to go and it was just a matter of going out there and executing and just playing some de-

fence." There's that word again. Defence.

The Knicks allowed fewer than 95 points in 24 of 25 playoff games. Houston kept its last 13 opponents under 100.

It has become commonplace in the playoffs, when games mean more and players work harder. Both teams scored more than 110 points in only four of this year's 77 playoff games. "It happened only twice the year before."

Hakeem Olajuwon was Houston's star, winning the series MVP award after getting 25 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists in game 7. But the Rockets won that game with excellent play from a guard corps that struggled most of the series and because they took care of the ball, committing a series-low nine turnovers against a pressing, physical defence.

Will all teams switch their emphasis to a slower style, playing with hand-checking and pushing in the paint, now that the Rockets and Knicks have shown it works?

Unlikely. It's hard to imagine Orlando with Shaquille O'Neal and Anfernee Hardaway on Golden State with Chris Webber and Latrell Sprewell going that way.

But when it comes to the finals, defence wins. Chicago beat Phoenix 99-98 to win the title in game 6 last year. In 1992, the Bulls held Portland below 100 points in four of the six games. In 1991, they gave up more than 100 just once in five games against the Los Angeles Lakers.

In this year's finals, no team scored more than 93 points. The Knicks got 91 in each of their three wins. The biggest margin of victory was nine points.

"I've been around basketball a long time," Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "I don't remember ever seeing a series that was so tight."

"You go back to those laker-Celtic days, there were blowouts, there were 15-point wins, and this thing was a nip-and-tuck deal that will drive you crazy."



Houston Rockets Otis Thorpe celebrates with the NBA championship trophy Wednesday after the final against the New York Knicks at the Summit in Houston, Texas. The Rockets won the championship with a 90-84 victory against the Knicks (AP photo)

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WITH OMAR SHARIF
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TICKETED FOR SPEEDING

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ A Q 10 2
♠ 8 8
♥ Q 2
♦ J 10 4 3 2

WEST
♦ J 9 8 6 5
♠ K 7 6
♥ 10 9 5
♦ 8 7

SOUTH
♦ A 3
♠ A 5 4
♥ K J 4 3
♦ A K Q 5

The bidding: North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠
There is no posttime more boring than a game of bridge played at a pace which would make a snail look like a hot rod. However, that doesn't mean you shouldn't take time to plan your play. South, declarer at three no trump, had a case of "flying fingers" at trick one and paid the price.

No modern player thinks twice about opening one no trump on a balanced hand of 16-18 (or 15-17) points that contains a weak doubleton. North's two clubs checked for a

possible 4-4 spade fit. When South denied a four-card major, North made the value raise to the no-trump game.

West led a low spade and declarer seized the opportunity to finesse the ten. The operation was successful, but the patient died! The ten lost to East's king and, since it was obvious a spade continuation was futile, the defender shifted to the queen of hearts and persevered with that suit when declarer ducked.

After the ace of hearts was forced out and declarer could count no more than eight tricks without a trick in diamonds, East took the ace of diamonds at the first opportunity and cashed two more heart tricks for down two.

Had declarer taken a few moments' thought before playing to the first trick the futility of the spade finesse would have been apparent. Spades is not the danger suit — hearts poses a far graver threat.

To prevent the actual debacle, declarer should have risen with the ace of spades at trick one, then forced out the ace of diamonds. That would establish nine tricks for declarer and the defenders would have no way to collect more than two spades, regardless of how the suit was distributed.

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	JURASSIC PARK		Christian Slates in KUFFS		CONCORD '1' DENNIS		Soon the new play!!!		Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"		Present their play: WHAT A PEACE! (Salam Ya Salam)	
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30						Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tues. days.	
					Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15							

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi delegation off to France

BAGHDAD (R) — A delegation from Iraq's communications and transport ministry has gone to Paris to look at transport schemes that French firms could build in Iraq, the official Al Thawra newspaper said Friday. French businessmen were in Baghdad this week to discuss resuming their once lucrative trade with Iraq once the U.N. Security Council lifts an embargo. France was Iraq's major Western trade partner in the 1980s.

David Steel to retire as MP

LONDON (AFP) — Former Liberal leader Sir David Steel is to retire from Britain's House of Commons at the next general election after 30 years as a parliamentarian, he announced Thursday. "I entered the Commons at the age of 26 as the baby of the House. Now at 56, I harbour no ambitions to stay to become the father of the House," he told his Scottish Borders constituency party at Galashiels. One reason for his decision was to quit when he was young enough to contemplate "doing something equally constructive and challenging with the remaining decades of my working life," he said. Sir David was one of the most prominent "third party" parliamentarians over the past two decades. Liberal leader from 1976 to 1988 he was a leading figure in the historic merger of his party with the former Social Democrats in the early 1980s, and co-founded the Liberal Democrats. He is to relinquish his post as the Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman at the end of this session of parliament.

Plea accord struck in Whitewater trial

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AP) — The Whitewater prosecutor struck a plea bargain that will seal testimony by a man who claims then Governor Bill Clinton pressured him into making a loan to a Clinton business partner. The agreement came four days into a trial peripherally related to the Whitewater investigation of President Clinton and his real estate dealings. The case involves two men accused of conspiring to defraud the Federal Small Business Administration. A third man involved in the scheme, David Hale, was supposed to take the stand, but Whitewater Prosecutor Robert Fiske Jr. feared his testimony could jeopardise the Whitewater probe by tipping off people under investigation.

Japan emperor arrives in Hawaii

HONOLULU, Hawaii (R) — Emperor Akihito arrived in Honolulu Thursday, the last stop of his 16-day whirlwind tour of the United States. On Friday, Mr. Akihito and Empress Michiko were to lay a wreath at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at the Punchbowl overlooking Honolulu before attending mostly cultural events.

Israelis dynamite Lebanese fishing boats

SARAFAND, Lebanon (AFP) — Israeli commandos dynamited two fishing boats in a southern Lebanese port in a dawn attack on Friday, security sources said. Israeli frogmen swam into the tiny Sarafand port, 55 kilometres from Beirut, and attacked the boats belonging to Mohammad Abbas Atoui and Salim Ali Manana, they added. Three days earlier Israeli naval forces patrolling the Lebanese coastline picked up Mr. Atoui and Mr. Manana and questioned them about their boats, a security source told AFP. Seven months ago Mr. Atoui lost a boat in a similar Israeli attack.

Turkish troops leave to join U.N. in Bosnia

ANKARA (R) — Turkish infantry left Ankara on Friday to join U.N. forces in Bosnia for what their leaders said would be a mission to keep the peace and "end the massacre." "You are leaving to keep the peace and bring humanitarian aid to Bosnia, where a horror has been going on," President Suleyman Demirel said as nearly 300 blue-beretted troops prepared to board two Turkish Airlines planes at Ankara airport. The deployment of Turkish troops in Bosnia has angered Serb leaders, who say Turkey's history of conflict with Serbs during Ottoman rule in the Balkans has prejudiced it in favour of Bosnian Muslims and should bar it from peacekeeping in the area. Turkey's age-old rival Greece also opposes the deployment, saying it will raise Balkan tensions, and Bulgaria says it objects in principle to any military involvement by Balkan countries in the Bosnian conflict.

Forum stresses need for Palestinian development

PARIS — The current peace process represented an opportunity to build together a society based on mutual respect, self-interest, fairness and equity, Leila Shaheed, observer for Palestine to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) said Thursday, the three-day seminar on Palestinian Trade and Investment Needs concluded.

"Maybe we have not yet reached the full implementation of the peace process on the ground, but there is surely something new that has happened between Israelis and Palestinians," she said. "We can talk to each other in a way that has never been as free, as responsible politically and as challenging."

In a closing statement, Keba Birane Cisse (Senegal), seminar chairman, said that Palestinian economic and social development was essential for the achievement of a just and lasting peace. During the past few months, accords had been reached on building a Palestinian economy and integrating it into a regional and international context. Trade was of determining importance in that process.

For many, the past three days of productive and useful deliberations had represented a learning process, demonstrating the magnitude of the task now facing the Palestinians. The seminar had provided an opportunity to exchange views and offer fresh perspectives on the challenges that lay ahead, he said.

The seminar participants adopted the preliminary version of their final report, which summarises the views expressed during the past

three days. It was introduced by Joseph Cassar (Malta), rapporteur.

Round-up

During the seminar participants considered a wide range of issues in the building of a Palestinian economy, including challenges in creating a favourable economic environment, Palestinian bilateral economic relations and the role of international assistance.

Addressing the need to lay a foundation for economic development, they discussed the lifting of the current regulatory burden inhibiting development preparing a new Palestinian legal framework and building Palestinian public institutions and a public finance system. The need to promote private enterprise and to rehabilitate physical infrastructure and public utilities was also stressed.

Presentations were also made on Palestinian needs and policy options on investment for development and trade. Participants called for the promotion of domestic investment and for investing in infrastructure and human capital. They also considered future Palestinian trade relations, the opening of new international markets, the role of local chambers of commerce and efforts to promote export generation and import substitution.

The officers of the seminar were Keba Birane Cisse (Senegal), chairman; and Joseph Cassar (Malta), vice-chairman and rapporteur.

The seminar was organised by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

Hebron inquiry blames Israeli army

TEL AVIV (Agencies) —

An official inquiry into the Hebron massacre has blamed the Israeli army for failing to protect Muslims at prayer, the daily Yediot Aharonot said Friday.

Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein killed more than 30 Palestinian worshippers when he opened fire in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron on Feb. 25, before being beaten to death by enraged crowd.

The inquiry set up immediately after the massacre said in a report the Israeli military command had failed to take account of the risk of a Jewish attack despite repeated warnings by the internal security services.

The inquiry's findings, due to be published Sunday, highlight the gaps in security at the site, and accuse the police of being lax in their attitude

towards extremist settlers.

The report does not recommend any sanctions, but calls for Jews and Muslims to be separated in the complex and says security measures should be changed following the massacre.

The 370-page report concludes that Goldstein acted alone and that all the victims died from gunshot wounds, the paper said.

Testimony by Palestinian witnesses and some Israeli army guards had suggested that there was a second gunman or that Goldstein had an accomplice in the bloodbath.

The five-member commission of three judges, a professor and a retired general is not seeking criminal indictments, but criticised senior army officers for ignoring intelligence warnings about possible violence by Jewish extremists against Palesti-

nians, the Yediot Aharonot and Haaretz newspapers said.

The commission also found that law enforcement against Jewish settlers in the occupied territories has been too lax, the dailies said.

In six weeks of hearings, the commission was told that soldiers were under orders not to open fire on settlers, even if they were shooting at others. Complaints by Muslim worshippers about settler provocations at the site, such as throwing acid on prayer carpets, were rarely followed up by police, witnesses said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who also testified before the panel, shouldered some of the blame. As defence minister, Mr. Rabin is directly responsible for the occupied territories.

"I admit that I feel uncomfortable about the way the

law has been enforced regarding some of the settlers," Mr. Rabin said in remarks published Friday in Yediot Aharonot. "Steps that were taken were not sufficient, including by groups that I am in charge of... all the systems, including the ones that I head, didn't operate as they should have."

In other findings, the commission said soldiers did not fire on worshippers fleeing the massacre site and did not intentionally block the evacuation of wounded.

Palestinian witnesses have said army guards fired into the crowd of panicked worshippers to keep them at bay, and that soldiers also held up the rescue of wounded.

The supreme court rejected a last-minute appeal by Goldstein's widow, Miriam, to delay publication of the panel's findings until

her husband's death was also investigated.

The appeal was filed Thursday and rejected Friday morning, Israel Radio said.

The court refused her argument that the inquiry had termed her husband a murderer even though it had not established the circumstances of her husband's death.

She has maintained he could have acted "in self-defence."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview with the daily Yediot published Friday that he was worried about the "complacent attitude towards the extreme right in the territories."

"Even the courts have not dealt harshly enough with them. We have to revise the whole legal system towards the Jews."

Children sentenced for killing their father

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) —

A brother and sister were sent to mental health treatment centres for their part in the murder of their father, who was shot, hacked to pieces and burned in a wood stove. Sarah Butler, 15; her brother Timmy, 14; and their mother, Donna, all confessed to the Jan. 15 murder of Tim Butler at the family's ramshackle cabin, the mother is scheduled to be sentenced in August. The three said Mr. Butler psychologically abused them, and a psychologist said they feared he would kill them. Authorities said Sarah, a cheerleader and honour student, shot her father as he slept. Her mother stood beside her during the murder. Timmy admitted helping his mother dispose of the body, first by burning it, then by cutting it up with a meat saw and burning the remains in a wood stove, authorities said. District Judge John Henson placed both children in the State Department of Family Services' custody. He recommended that the two go to the separate treatment centre until their 21st birthdays. Because the children were charged as juveniles, the sentences represent the longest hold the state can place on them. Defence lawyers portrayed Mr. Butler as an emotionally abusive father and husband who had become reclusive and mentally unstable during the last six months of his life. During testimony Wednesday at a sentencing hearing, psychologist Sarah Baxter described the children as fearful of their father, although she never referred to any physical violence committed by him. On the day before the murder, Mrs. Butler met with a social worker and was told she and the children could move to a shelter, move in with friends or have Mr. Butler arrested for using marijuana. Mr. Baxter said Mrs. Butler was convinced her husband would pursue the family. "Their fear was that... Mr. Butler would track them down and kill them," Dr. Baxter testified.

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Queen's yacht to go

LONDON (AP) —

Queen Elizabeth II is giving up the sumptuous ocean-going royal yacht Britannia, and will reimburse the taxpayer for her family's personal use of royal aircraft, the government announced Thursday.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said the 412-foot (125-metre) yacht Britannia will be decommissioned in 1997. He said any decision to replace the 40-year-old ship would be made in consultation with the queen. No decision has been made about what will become of the Britannia, but the queen hopes a useful purpose for it will be found in Britain, a Buckingham Palace spokesman said.

Last year one of the monarch's financial advisers, Michael Peat, said Britannia would not be replaced. With its crew of 277, the ship costs about £10.3 million (\$16 million) a year to operate, the Defence Ministry said. A £17 million (\$13.5 million) refit would have been required within three years to make the ocean-going yacht safe and seaworthy, and that would only have prolonged its life five more years, a ministry spokeswoman said.

The queen fully accepts the decision, and it was she who took the initiative to tell the prime minister that the pattern of royal visits had changed over the last 40 years and a royal yacht was no longer necessary, a palace spokesman said. The yacht is regularly used for official meetings and trade conferences, and reached its 1 million-mile mark during the queen's visit to Caribbean nations in February and March. Britannia had a prominent role in D-Day celebrations earlier this month, carrying the queen along the convoy route from England to Normandy. The queen's son, Prince Charles, bodeymooned on the ship with his bride Diana — and the two made their first public appearance together on Britannia after their estrangement in December 1992.

Smuggler

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EU in loggerheads over executive

CORFU (AP) —

Stepping up his drive for closer ties with the West, Boris Yeltsin on Friday signed a trade and cooperation agreement with the European Union that the Russian leader said would end the "economic cold war."

In a doric-columned chapel overlooking the Ionian Sea, Mr. Yeltsin promised the 12 EU leaders that Russia would be a "loyal, honest, reliable and trustworthy partner."

The EU-Russia accord will lift trade barriers to the sale of Russian goods in Europe, encourage Western investment in Russia's flagging economy and pave the way for negotiations in 1998 on whether to move towards a free trade agreement.

Mr. Yeltsin was the star at the opening session of a two-day summit overshadowed later in the day by a bitter fight over the selection of a new EU chief executive.

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, looking frail and unsteady as he

welcomed Mr. Yeltsin and other dignitaries, was under pressure to get the EU to agree on a successor to Jacques Delors, whose term expires in January.

Prime ministers Jean-Luc Dehaene of Belgium and Ruud Lubbers of the Netherlands were the front-runners.

A failure to choose one would underscore the difficulty the group has in working together despite pledges of unity. Its new treaty on European Union calls for a common foreign policy and a single currency by 1999.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who holds an important swing vote. He suggested at a press conference that the third official candidate, the EU's British trade commissioner, Leon Brittan, had dropped out of serious consideration as a compromise choice.

Germany and France are strongly supporting Mr. Dehaene, an avowed proponent of deeper integration of EU countries.

'Israel is delaying Arafat'

(Continued from page 1)

this week from visiting the King Hussein Bridge — the main crossing point between the West Bank and Jordan near Jericho — had spurred him to advise Mr. Arafat not to come.

"After what I saw and after my experience, I advised him to delay his arrival," Dr. Shaath said.

Dr. Shaath also complained of the dismantling of his bodyguards while travelling to Jericho from Gaza through Israel this week, saying: "Do you think Arafat would allow Israelis to take his bodyguards' guns when he travels between Gaza and Jericho?"

Finally, Dr. Shaath said, there was the issue of Jerusalem.

"For instance I was not allowed to pray in Jerusalem, when the holy places should be open to all," he said.

Israel said Dr. Shaath had not coordinated a visit as should have been done.

Mr. Rabin, in an interview published in Israel's Yediot Aharonot, said Mr. Arafat had a right to worship in Jerusalem and only technical arrangements stood in the way of an Arafat visit.

Once Mr. Arafat arrives, Israel would weigh a request to visit Jerusalem, particularly to pray at holy sites such as Al Aqsa mosque, Mr. Rabin told Yediot Aharonot.

"Arafat as a Muslim is entitled as any Muslim, to visit Jerusalem. If he wants to pray that is his right. There will be a problem about timing and arrangements but in principle the answer is positive," Mr. Rabin said.

The Maariv daily carried similar remarks from a separate interview with Mr. Rabin.

Israelis kill Nablus boy

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian troops came to blows Friday in the Gaza Strip while arguing over who should detain a Palestinian boy accused of throwing stones at the Israelis, Israel radio reported.

It was the first reported scuffle between Israeli and Palestinian law enforcement agents since Gaza came under self-rule May 18.

The army spokesman confirmed that Israeli troops and police were stoned by Arab youths in the northern Gaza Strip. It said a confrontation developed with Palestinian police who demanded the Israelis hand over an 11-year-old apprehended on suspicion of throwing stones.

Israel Radio said an argument broke out at the edge of the Beit Lahiya village and that an Israeli soldier was injured when the two sides exchanged blows. In response, an Israeli soldier fired his gun into the air.

The army said that the Palestinian police took the boy away for questioning.

Awadalla Zaqout, a Palestinian policeman, told the AP that the Israeli officer who caught the boy started beating him and that a Palestinian policeman snatched him by force from the officer, who shot about 10 bullets into the air.

The brawl reportedly ended after a joint Israeli-Palestinian patrol took all feuding parties aside for

questioning.

The Palestinian police let the boy go home, and the boy intends to file a complaint against the Israelis, Sergeant Zaqout said.

Palestinian policeman Captain Najeh Othman of the team that tries to iron out difficulties between Israeli and Palestinian security forces denied that a Palestinian policeman struck an Israeli or that the detained youth was throwing stones.

He said the Israeli boy detained an 11-year-old boy who ran away when he saw them come because he was selling beverages and cigarettes without a permit near Erez junction into Israel.

The May 4 agreement implementing autonomy in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho left it up to Palestinian police to detain Arabs suspected of attacks on Israelis. But Israeli troops patrolling roads used by Jewish settlers are entitled to chase assailants.

The incident contrasted with the general cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian police since autonomy started.

On Thursday night Palestinian police in autonomous Jericho handed over four murder suspects hiding in the town to Israeli police. The men were suspected of killing a woman in the Ramallah area, which is still under Israeli occupation.

U.N. biological team in Iraq

BAHRAIN (Agencies) —

A 32-member team of U.N. inspectors flew to Baghdad Friday to plan long-term monitoring of Iraq's biological weapons programme to ensure that Iraq does not seek to revive it.

The multinational team, drawn from nine countries, was led by Jeff Mohr, an American. Its mission will last until July 8.

Roald Opsahl, Bahrain-based regional chief for the U.N. Special Commission charged with dismantling all Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said the team will "survey a variety of sites to gather baseline data concerning microbiological capabilities."

"Some of the inspected sites may be included into the ongoing monitoring and verification," he added.

Iraq's clandestine biological weapons programme —

developing disease-spreading toxins and deadly microorganisms — was primarily in the research stage when the United Nations moved to destroy Iraq's major military programmes after the 1991 Gulf war.

Iraq's nuclear, chemical and ballistic missile programmes were far more advanced.

The main biological weapons facility was a top-security complex at Salman Pak, southeast of Baghdad.

Western intelligence agencies said before the 1991 war that the Iraqis were developing strains of cholera, typhus and pulmonary anthrax there.

There were also unconfirmed reports that Iraqi scientists, aided by foreign experts, were trying to develop tularemia, commonly known as "rabbit fever," at Salman Pak.

The U.N. Special Commis-

sion overseeing the destruction of Iraqi weapons announced Wednesday that all of Iraq's chemical weapons have been destroyed.

The two-year operation, which involved some 100 experts from 23 countries, fulfilled the Security Council's orders to eliminate Iraq's declared chemical weapons stockpiles and did so "expeditiously, at minimal expense, and with no damage to the environment," according to a U.N. announcement.

Items destroyed included more than 480,000 liters of chemical warfare agents, more than 28,000 chemical munitions ranging from rockets to artillery shells to bombs and ballistic missile warheads, and extensive quantities of some 45 different precursor chemicals for the production of chemical warfare agents, it said.

Iran postpones visit to Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) —

Iran postponed a visit to Iraq by a Foreign Ministry delegation in protest at Baghdad's support for an Iranian rebel group accused of a bloody bomb attack on a holy shrine, the ministry said Friday.

A ministry spokesman, quoted by Tehran Radio, said the visit on Saturday had been indefinitely postponed because of the "terrorist act by the (Mujahadeen) and in protest at the Iraqi government's support for the group."

The ministry said on Thursday it was decided to put off the visit for a second time after Monday's bomb blast at the shrine of Imam Reza in the northeastern city of Mashhad.

The authorities blamed the main armed opposition group, the Mujahadeen Khalq, for the attack which killed around 25 people and wounded at least 70, according to interior ministry figures.

The official agency IRNA

said late Thursday 26 had been killed and about 170 wounded.

The Iraq-based Mujahadeen have strongly denied any involvement in the explosion.

The delegation was first due in Baghdad on June 11 to prepare for a visit by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, but the trip was postponed at the last minute for unspecified reasons.

Mr. Velayati, who would be the first top official to visit Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war, said last week the delegation was to visit by the end of June.

The visit was to continue discussions on normalising ties five years after the end of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. Talks resumed last October after they were broken in the wake of the Gulf war.

Tehran and Baghdad are sharply divided over a number of issues, including the fate of thousands of prisoners of war from both countries.

Iran's chief prosecutor said Friday authorities have

arrested two groups of Iraq-based rebels accused of planning "terrorist" attacks in Iran.

Ayatollah Abolfazl Musavi Tabrizi, quoted by IRNA, said the suspects were members of the Mujahadeen, who "had been sent from Iraq with the aim to carry out sabotage activities."

He did not say how many people were arrested or if they were linked to Monday's bomb explosion in the shrine of Imam Reza.

Deputy interior minister Gholam Hussein Bolandian said Thursday 30 suspects had been arrested immediately after the incident, with many others rounded up later in other parts of the country.

The authorities have repeatedly blamed the Mujahadeen for cross-border attacks and bombing incidents inside the country, including Monday's explosion.

The rebel group has strongly denied any involvement in the bombing.

King: Jordan wants comprehensive peace

(Continued from page 1)

helping Jordan through its current difficult situation.

King Hussein said a joint Jordanian-U.S. committee has been formed to work out a mechanism for developing bilateral relations in all fields.

On the timing of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, King Hussein said talks should have started right after signing the agenda in Washington but due to other events and other preoccupations and concerns for other parties in the region the talks were postponed.

However, he added, when time was opportune for commencing discussion of the agenda "we welcomed that and preferred to move the talks' venue to the area, particularly as talks will focus on such important issues as Jordan's sovereignty over its territory, demarcation of boundaries and the full recognition of Jordan's sovereignty, in addition to other issues of water and environment."

On Jordan's stand towards Arab issues, King Hussein said Jordan, since its creation, had been closer to the Palestine question — the question of the people, the land and rights.

"Probably this was our destiny as a family which has the honour of belonging to Jordan ever since the Great Arab Revolt," he said. In the

post-1967 era, King Hussein said, Jordan had stood by and supported its Arab brethren in affirmation of its Arab commitment to the common Arab defence treaty and its membership in the Arab League under an Egyptian leadership.

At a late stage, the King said, "our Egyptian brethren opted to follow the path of peace and were the leaders in 1967. Later on, our Palestinian brothers decided to shoulder their responsibilities for securing their rights on their national soil. Given this, it was nonsense for Jordan to stay behind or keep waiting until all parties solve their problems."

"Jordan should exist, not only as an example for the political dimension but also as a model in its democratic approach, its respect for human rights, and political pluralism," he said. "It should remain as a strong rock in the region and all circumstances demand that it continue its search for a just, durable and honourable peace."

On Syria's reaction to the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, King Hussein expressed surprise at the question.

The King said he did not hear anything from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad at the personal level. "We are always in contact recently said a visit to Syria and met with President Assad and discussed all our issues," the King said.

On Syrian-Jordanian coordination and Palestinian-Jordanian coordination, King Hussein said coordination in real terms was non-existent.

"What takes place from time to time and whenever circumstances allow is that we inform each other of the latest information on talks or provide each other with the latest developments," the King said.

The King said that the interrelation between the Palestinian and the Jordanian questions has made it incumbent on Jordan to negotiate. "We, together with our Palestinian brothers, Syrians and Lebanese, started from the same point in Madrid. We are seeking a comprehensive solution. However, this does not mean that we have abandoned our right to address our own issues or that we assume that Syria should abandon its rights."

King Hussein said a Jordanian-Syrian meeting at the prime ministers level was planned to achieve some sort of integration in bilateral relations but the meeting was postponed at the request of Syria.

"We hope that the meeting will not be postponed for long," the King said.

The King said that Jordan had no problems with Syria and both countries remained in contact and had gone a long way together.

Jordan's relations were good with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, King Hussein said. He referred to the Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement which was followed by a Palestinian-Israeli agreement and stressed that there "is a need for a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli agreement to redress all issues."

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